

**CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL  
DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-009**

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE WEST ST. PAUL POLICE DEPARTMENT TEAM AND AFFIRMING THE CITY COUNCIL'S TRUST, EXPECTATIONS, AND COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SAFETY DURING HEIGHTENED FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**WHEREAS**, the West St. Paul Police Department team, sworn and civilian, carries the daily responsibility of protecting this community and doing the hard work of public safety with professionalism, restraint, and care; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes that current federal immigration enforcement tactics have contributed to heightened fear, uncertainty, and reduced feelings of safety among residents, business owners, employees, and visitors, and that this environment also places added stress and personal concern on local public safety staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council understands that the Police Department is being asked to operate in difficult conditions, with rapidly evolving situations, heightened emotions, and increased risk, while still providing steady service and being present for the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council believes that community safety is strengthened when local law enforcement is visible, accessible, and trusted, and when staff use calm presence, sound judgement, and de-escalation to reduce tension and prevent harm; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council affirms that West St. Paul's public safety approach is rooted in lawful process, transparency, accountability, and de-escalation, and the Council appreciates the department's daily commitment to doing law enforcement the right way; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council acknowledges that federal agencies act under federal authority, and the City and its employees must not obstruct or interfere with lawful federal operations, while continuing to protect public safety within the City's legal authority; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes there are practical limits to what one or a small number of local officers can do when faced with a large federal presence, and that decisions must be made in real time with the primary objective of preventing escalation and protecting people;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul, Minnesota, as follows:

1. We see you, and we support you. The City Council expresses its full support for the entire West St. Paul Police Department team, including sworn officers, and all personnel who keep this city safe. The Council recognizes the weight of this moment and affirms that you are not carrying it alone.

2. You work for this community, and we have your back. The City Council affirms that the Police Department works for this community. The Council supports the department's focus on visibility, reassurance, and de-escalation as a public safety strategy, and affirms that the purpose of this work is community safety, not participation in civil immigration enforcement.

3. We trust your judgement. The City Council affirms its trust in the professional judgement of West St. Paul Police Department personnel to make lawful, safety-focused decisions on a situation-by-situation basis. The Council supports you in choosing the response that best protects public safety and reduces harm, including when your judgement is that intervening would not de-escalate or would create greater risk.

4. We know who you are. The City Council and City leadership have the opportunity to know Police Department personnel personally. We know your character, your commitment, and what is in your hearts. The Council has confidence that you will do the right thing for this community under difficult circumstances.

5. Our standard is safety and dignity for all. The City Council affirms that West St. Paul's standard is safety and dignity for all persons within the city, and residents should feel safe calling 911, reporting crime, and accessing City services without fear. The Council supports the department's commitment to listening to and responding to community concerns in a lawful, ethical, and professional manner.


6. We understand the reality of the situation. The City Council acknowledges legal boundaries and the practical limits of what a small number of local officers can do when faced with a large federal presence. The Council affirms that your role is to prioritize de-escalation, protect the public, and respond to public safety concerns within the City's authority.

7. Continued support and coordination. The City Council directs the City Manager, Police Chief, and City Attorney to continue coordinating to support Police Department personnel, maintain readiness, and keep the Council appropriately informed in a manner that protects operational security while enabling oversight.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul, Minnesota, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

  
David J. Napier, Mayor

Attest:

  
Nicole Tillander, City Clerk