

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-016**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CITY POLICY STATEMENTS REGARDING  
COMMUNITY SAFETY, CITY OPERATIONS, AND COMMUNICATIONS IN  
CONNECTION WITH FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**WHEREAS**, the City of West St. Paul's foremost responsibility is community safety, including maintaining public trust so residents and businesses feel safe calling 911, reporting crimes, cooperating as witnesses, and accessing City services; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that public safety is harmed when residents are afraid to report crime, appear as witnesses, or seek help, and that fear-based enforcement tactics such as those currently being used by federal immigration agencies undermine community policing and make everyone less safe; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council is concerned by widely reported allegations and ongoing litigation asserting that some federal immigration enforcement operations have involved detentions and uses of force against people who are not obstructing law enforcement, including peaceful observers and protesters, raising serious constitutional and civil liberties concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council is further concerned by reported incidents in which U.S. citizens have been detained or temporarily held during immigration enforcement activity, as well as reports of mistaken identity and coercive encounters, which erode public confidence and raise due process concerns that affect all people, including citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council is concerned by reports and public statements alleging racially discriminatory targeting during enforcement activity, which undermines equal protection principles and damages trust between communities and law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, West St. Paul expects law enforcement activity affecting our community to be grounded in lawful process, transparency, accountability, and de-escalation, and the City Council believes those principles are essential to public safety and public trust; and

**WHEREAS**, the West St. Paul Police Department models these expectations through accountable policing, including the use of body-worn cameras, clear identification by name and badge number, a policy of not wearing masks in routine policing, and a consistent focus on de-escalation, because legitimacy and trust are core public safety tools; and

**WHEREAS**, immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, and the City's responsibility is local public safety and the delivery of City services, and the City will keep its operations focused on what it can control to protect community safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the City can control its own operations, including City staff activity, City property, City data, City contracts, and City resources, and must comply with applicable law, including valid judicial warrants and court orders; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to communicate in a values-forward manner focused on community safety and trust, while remaining accurate about legal boundaries and avoiding generalized scenario-by-scenario guidance that residents or businesses could misapply in ways that make them less safe;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the following statements are adopted, as modified if noted, as the policy position and direction of the City Council of the City of West St. Paul, MN.

**A. Community safety and the City's role.**

(current) Our Mayor, Council, City staff, and WSPPD work for this community. Our job is community safety and we will use every tool within our legal authority to keep people safe.

(modified) Our Mayor, Council, City staff, and WSPPD work for this community. Our job is community safety and we will use every tool within our legal authority to keep people safe, with emphasis on trust, de-escalation, and ensuring residents feel safe seeking help.

**B. Participation in civil immigration enforcement.**

(current) West St. Paul does not participate in civil immigration enforcement. The City and WSPPD act only when authorized or required by law, including complying with valid judicial warrants and court orders and with what Minnesota law requires.

(modified) West St. Paul does not participate in civil immigration enforcement. The City and WSPPD act only when required by law, including complying with valid judicial warrants and court orders and with what Minnesota law requires.

---

**C. Legal process and information requests.**

(current) The City will comply with valid judicial warrants and court orders and will respond to information requests only as authorized or required by law.

(modified) The City will comply with valid judicial warrants and court orders and will respond to information requests only as required by law.

**D. City property and facilities.**

(current) The City will control access to nonpublic areas of City facilities consistent with law and public safety and will not provide nonpublic City space for civil immigration enforcement activity unless required by a valid judicial warrant or court order.

(modified) The City will control access to nonpublic areas of City facilities consistent with law and public safety and will not provide nonpublic City space for civil immigration enforcement activity unless required by a valid judicial warrant or court order. The City will use normal property management authority and lawful public safety measures to manage access and address disruptions on City property.

E. City data and vendor data.

(current) The City will protect City data and will respond to requests for City data only as authorized or required by law, consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and valid judicial orders. City vendors are required to safeguard City data and comply with contract terms and applicable law.

(modified) The City will protect City data and will respond to requests for City data only as required by law, consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and valid judicial orders. City vendors may not disclose or share City data except when required by law and consistent with applicable contract terms.

F. Public safety presence.

When heightened public safety concerns exist, the City Manager may authorize the Police Chief to increase overtime to increase overall presence and maintain heightened awareness of public safety concerns, with operational direction provided internally, consistent with the direction of the City Council.

G. Communications.

(current) The City will communicate about federal activity in a neutral, fact-based, high-level manner focused on community safety and lawful process and will avoid scenario-by-scenario public guidance that could be misinterpreted and make situations less safe.

(modified) The City will communicate about federal activity using a values-forward approach grounded in community safety and trust, while still avoiding scenario-by-scenario public guidance that could be misinterpreted and make situations less safe.

H. Continued Council involvement.

(current) The City will monitor developments and will keep the City Council informed.

(modified) If conditions materially change or public safety concerns escalate, the City Manager will return to the City Council promptly with options for consideration, including calling a special meeting if needed.

---

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council recognizes that court schedules and filing deadlines can make it impractical to convene a Council meeting in time to authorize participation in litigation or the filing of an amicus brief, and the Council therefore establishes the following time-sensitive litigation authorization.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, when a deadline would reasonably prevent timely Council action, the City Manager is authorized to act on behalf of the City, in coordination with the Police Chief and the City Attorney, to (1) join, intervene in, or otherwise participate as a party in litigation, and/or (2) submit an amicus brief, provided the action is directly related to community safety, lawful process, and the City's operational authority and responsibilities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this authorization is subject to the following boundaries:

A. Required concurrence. The City may proceed only when the City Attorney concurs, in writing, that participation is legally appropriate and within the City's authority. The City

Manager and Police Chief must also concur that the action supports community safety and the City's operational interests.

B. Scope limitations. This authorization applies only to joining litigation, intervening, and filing amicus briefs. It does not authorize adoption of new ordinances, material changes to City operations, or commitments that create ongoing obligations without Council action.

C. Cost and commitment limits. No action taken under this authorization may:

1. Commit the City to any settlement terms without Council approval.
2. Commit the City to ongoing obligations beyond the discrete act of participation or filing.
3. Exceed the City Managers expenditure authority per matter (inclusive of any outside counsel, filing costs, or related professional services) or reasonably create the expectation of budget overages, without Council approval.
4. Require disclosure of nonpublic operational information or compromise public safety operations.

D. Council notice. The City Manager will notify the Mayor and Council as soon as practicable, and no later than the next regular Council meeting, with a written summary identifying the matter, the action taken, the City interests asserted, anticipated costs, key deadlines, and any material risks.

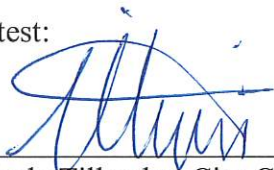
E. Subsequent Council direction. If continued participation, additional expenditures, settlement authority, or ongoing obligations may be required, the City Manager will bring the matter to the Council at the next available meeting for direction.

F. Council authority preserved. Nothing in this resolution limits the Council's authority to direct, modify, or discontinue the City's participation in any matter.

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