

# Frequently Asked Questions about U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

## ***Does the City of Milwaukee have a plan if ICE were to conduct an immigration operation?***

Yes. The City of Milwaukee is working closely with local, county, and state partners to prepare for any potential increase in ICE or other immigration enforcement activity in Milwaukee. The City has created a “**Know Your Rights**” website that provides helpful information and resources for the community:

<https://city.milwaukee.gov/cityclerk/know-your-rights-and-available-resources>

## ***Does the Milwaukee Police Department have a plan if ICE were to conduct an immigration operation?***

Yes. MPD has a longstanding immigration policy that guides all interactions with ICE. A summary and the full policy are available online:

<https://city.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/mpdAuthors/SOP/130-FOREIGNNATIONALS-DIPLOMATICIMMUNITY-IMMIGRATIONENFORCEMENT1.pdf>

- MPD participates in planning efforts with City, County, and State officials, as well as other law enforcement agencies.
- Chief Jeffrey Norman, as a member of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), maintains open communication with police and city leaders nationwide to share best practices and strategies.
- In all that we do, MPD prioritizes protecting the safety and rights of the community at all times, including during protests and public gatherings.

## ***Does MPD cooperate with ICE and enforce federal immigration law?***

MPD’s policy related to immigration was created in response to community feedback. A summary of our policy is attached. **This policy explicitly states that enforcement of the country’s immigration laws is the responsibility of the federal government and not MPD.**

Regardless of the level of ICE’s presence in our city, MPD’s policy remains our guiding principle. We are in constant communication with city, county and state officials and will share information to the best of our ability with a commitment to transparent communications with the public.

To be clear, ICE is a federal law enforcement agency with the authority to enforce civil and criminal immigration laws. Local municipalities like Milwaukee do not have jurisdiction over ICE. Our commitment to support public safety and protect the residents of Milwaukee remains as strong as ever.

***What type of situation would warrant MPD arresting a federal law enforcement officer?***

MPD will not issue a blanket statement regarding the potential arrest of ICE or any federal personnel. Each circumstance, should it unfold, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine the most appropriate course of action. MPD will coordinate with our system partners, including the District Attorney and the County Sheriff in addressing extraordinary situations and making related determinations.

***If residents protest and ICE is present, how will MPD keep people safe?***

MPD is committed to prioritizing public safety while respecting individual rights. Our track record has been positive in ensuring protestor safety. We have had significant and major protests here in Milwaukee and they have all been successful without violent incident.

Our approach to any protest is to safeguard the peaceful exercise of First Amendment rights, not to interfere with them. At the same time, those exercising these rights have a responsibility to do so lawfully.

We will make every effort to de-escalate situations during public gatherings, including in the presence of ICE. Our officers are specially trained in de-escalation and we are confident in their abilities to navigate tense and difficult situations.

However, we remind the public that we cannot override the authority of federal law enforcement agencies. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is a federal agency authorized to enforce civil and criminal immigration laws. Individuals who unlawfully interfere with ICE should expect a law enforcement response from ICE.

Local municipalities, including Milwaukee, do not have jurisdiction over ICE operations. Our commitment to protecting public safety and the residents of Milwaukee remains unwavering.

***Are MPD officers allowed to wear face coverings? Can they be banned?***

MPD officers are prohibited from concealing their identity. Uniforms must display names or identifying numbers, and officers must provide identification upon request. Cold-weather gear, including face coverings, is permitted only for protection against the

elements—not to hide identity. All official identifiers must remain clearly visible. Videos showing what MPD officers look like:

English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zBIGgTaTvg>

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABX-quJz89A>

***Will MPD officers be required to activate Body-Worn Cameras during encounters with federal law enforcement agencies?***

Yes. MPD officers are required by policy to wear and activate their body-worn cameras during all calls for service, including those involving other law enforcement agencies such as ICE. The Chief has reiterated this requirement and emphasized that best practice is to activate cameras during any interagency encounter.

***If someone is arrested/detained by a federal law enforcement agency, what information does the MPD have about their status? Where should people go to make inquiries?***

MPD does not have information regarding the location or status of individuals detained or arrested by federal law enforcement such as ICE. All inquiries should be directed to the arresting agency.

***Does the MPD have any data-sharing contracts or other arrangements that would result in information being passed along to ICE? ALPR data is a particular concern.***

MPD does not have any data-sharing agreements or arrangements that would result in information being passed to ICE. Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) data is only disclosed with express permission from MPD and typically only when authorized by a subpoena, court order, or required under court rules governing criminal discovery.

***I am afraid to report crime because I am undocumented. Does MPD require I disclose my immigration status?***

MPD does not ask about immigration status. Victims of crime, regardless of immigration status, are encouraged to report crimes. MPD has partnered with Forward Latino to create this informational video:

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1040651408100936&id=100064682596387&mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=DX52fyf0GlljhSTb#](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1040651408100936&id=100064682596387&mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=DX52fyf0GlljhSTb#)