



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Emily Inlow-Hood
City of Burien Communications Officer
Office: (206) 439-3167

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF BURIEN ORDINANCE WORKS TO BUILD TRUST AMONG THE CITY, POLICE, AND COMMUNITY

Statement on the City of Burien's Immigration Status Ordinance No. 651 and President Trump's Executive Order: Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States

Burien, Wash., January 26, 2017—On January 9, 2017, the Burien City Council passed Ordinance No. 651, directing Burien city staff and law enforcement personnel to not inquire about immigration status. This ordinance is similar to what other cities and counties are calling a “sanctuary city” ordinance. The goal of the ordinance is to send a strong message to our community that public safety is our primary concern, and that it is safe for all our residents to contact law enforcement to report a crime. The policy does not allow or encourage undocumented individuals to commit crimes without punishment. The ordinance ensures our local police force and city staff can focus on their jobs, instead of handling immigration matters best left to federal immigration officers.

On January 25, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order: Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States, which states in pertinent part:

“the Attorney General and the Secretary ... shall ensure that jurisdictions that willfully refuse to comply with 8 U.S.C. 1373 (sanctuary jurisdictions) are not eligible to receive Federal grants. ...”
Executive Order § 8(a).

8 U.S.C. 1373 states that local officials may not prohibit the “sending to, or receiving from, the Immigration and Naturalization Service information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual.”

City Attorney Lisa Marshall states, “Simply put, nothing in Ordinance 651 is in conflict with the Executive Order. Ordinance 651 states that officials and agents won’t inquire into a person’s immigration status, nor would local government officials have a reason to. Nothing in Ordinance 651 restricts or impedes Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from doing their jobs in Burien. Burien officials, however, will not undertake a separate investigation into immigration matters. Such matters have nothing to do with the provision of local services, such as the issuance of business licenses or land use permits.”

Deputy Mayor Tosta states, “We know that public safety is the number one priority of our residents and that the confidence all members of our community have in dealing with our police force and city officials is an important aspect of ensuring that safety. A diverse, united community will help keep us all safe.

Ordinance 651 extends to City officials the King County Sherriff's Office's long-standing policy of not inquiring into a person's immigration status. The Ordinance is intended to send a message that local officials will do their jobs and leave the job of the federal government to federal officials.

The goal of the ordinance is to strengthen the trust between our police, city service personnel and our immigrant communities. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

The City of Burien is a vibrant and creative community, where the residents embrace diversity, celebrate arts and culture, promote vitality, and treasure the environment. For more information, visit www.burienwa.gov.

###