

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR SANTANA



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF “AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO PROTECT BOSTONIANS FROM UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND VIOLENT FEDERAL OPERATIONS”

WHEREAS, The actions of federal law enforcement agents across the country have fomented chaos, violated residents’ constitutional rights, and perpetrated egregious and grotesque acts of violence, including the murders of Keith Porter Jr., Renee Nicole Good, and Alex Pretti; *and*

WHEREAS, ICE officials have consistently employed tactics designed to create fear and escalate tension, including wearing masks and hiding their identities, refusing to identify themselves, brandishing weapons in an unsafe manner, claiming the right to enter private homes without warrants, and not using body-worn cameras, all of which jeopardize public safety in our communities; *and*

WHEREAS, Courts across the country have held that the federal government cannot compel the use of local resources for federal immigration enforcement; *and*

WHEREAS, “An Executive Order To Protect Bostonians From Unconstitutional and Violent Federal Operations,” signed by Mayor Michelle Wu on February 5, 2026, is a comprehensive order protecting the public safety of our residents amidst violent federal action; *and*

WHEREAS, In spite of this order being signed, a neighbor in Roslindale was taken from our streets on February 5, 2026 – an intolerable violation of the security our families deserve– and we refuse to accept the abduction of our neighbors as an unavoidable reality of life in Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, This Executive Order prohibits any City department with authority over physical property from allowing City-owned or City-controlled property from usage in furtherance of civil immigration enforcement operations absent a valid court order or judicial warrant; *and*

WHEREAS, It further ensures that signage will be posted at nonpublic spaces, including schools, libraries, senior centers, and community centers, indicating that such spaces shall not be accessed without a valid judicial warrant or court order, as well as instructing the City of Boston Office of Neighborhood Services to make templated signage available to private property owners and leaseholders who seek

to restrict their private spaces from being used for civil immigration enforcement purposes; *and*

WHEREAS, It further promotes the involvement of the City's public safety agencies to ensure de-escalation practices are used to protect peaceful protestors; *and*

WHEREAS, It further instructs the Boston Police Department to investigate violence, property damage, and allegations of criminal conduct perpetrated by federal officials; *and*

WHEREAS, It further requires inter-agency collaboration to facilitate the release of video footage of violence or property damage by federal officials as captured by City-controlled surveillance cameras or Boston Police Department body-worn cameras provided that such release does not unduly interfere with an active criminal investigation; *and*

WHEREAS, It further instructs the City of Boston Law Department to pursue all available legal avenues to contest federal actions that impair the City's municipal functions or jeopardize the collective health, safety, and welfare of City residents; *and*

WHEREAS, It further reaffirms that calling 9-1-1 is an appropriate response to warrantless entry of private homes and businesses; *and*

WHEREAS, It further instructs that in the event that any person is injured when City officials are present, City officials shall immediately summon emergency medical services and shall make all reasonable efforts to render aid according to longstanding protocols established by Boston Emergency Medical Services, the Boston Police Department, the Boston Fire Department, and the Office of Emergency Management; *and*

WHEREAS, The Executive Order seeks to continue Boston's longstanding tradition of prioritizing public safety in accordance with our City's values, as is the right of states under the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution; *and*

WHEREAS, The deployment of federal officials to Minneapolis and St. Paul constitutes an unlawful occupation of those cities, violating the constitution and subverting the Supreme Court's prohibition on the deployment of National Guard troops to achieve the same goals; *and*

WHEREAS, The official response from senior federal officials to the death and violence caused by ICE operations demonstrates a callous disregard for human life and a willingness to sanction violent attacks on innocent Americans, perpetrated without accountability to law, which undermines public safety in communities across this country; *and*

WHEREAS, In this moment of national crisis, the City of Boston shall continue to prioritize public safety, including protecting residents from violence and ensuring accountability for all who perpetrate it; *and*

WHEREAS, On January 29, 2026, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey issued an executive order and introduced legislation that would prevent ICE from conducting operations in places of worship, courthouses, schools, child care facilities, and hospitals; prevent ICE from making civil arrests in nonpublic areas of state-owned properties; and prevent ICE from using state-owned properties for staging, processing, and related civil immigrant actions; *and*

WHEREAS, This executive order has cemented Boston's place in a growing coalition of cities and municipalities providing similar protections for their residents, including Worcester, Somerville, Lynn, Chelsea, Newton, and Cambridge, as well as many more municipalities across the country; *and*

WHEREAS, While this Executive Order provides a legal framework, our true safety lies in our interconnectedness; protection doesn't just come from legislation— it can and should also be found from the person living next door; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has long led the fight against tyranny and its City government must protect the fundamentally American values of democratic accountability and respect for the dignity of all people. ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council hereby expresses its strong support of Mayor Michelle Wu's Executive Order, "An Executive Order To Protect Bostonians From Unconstitutional and Violent Federal Operations"; *and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of Boston.

Filed on: February 11, 2026