

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER, MINIARD CULPEPPER,  
BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA,  
PEPÉN, AND WORRELL



## CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H.D. 5608, “AN ACT PROMOTING RULE OF LAW, OVERSIGHT, TRUST, AND EQUAL CONSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT,” (The PROTECT Act)

**WHEREAS,** The Trump Administration has deputized a masked federal police force that has been used to attack immigrant and nonimmigrant neighbors in cities across the country and violate residents’ Constitutional rights under the First Amendment, Second Amendment, and Fourth Amendment; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Department of Homeland Security under Secretary Kristi Noem has unleashed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents who have acted with impunity in their attempts to arrest, detain and intimidate nonviolent immigrants and protesters, leading to high-profile deaths of peaceful demonstrators Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and resulted in the deaths of numerous detainees; *and*

**WHEREAS,** In 2025 there were over 600 arrests at courthouses across the state of Massachusetts and more than 20 individuals were detained by ICE at the East Boston District Courthouse. It’s been reported that 20 percent of courthouse arrests in Massachusetts are occurring in Boston-area courthouses; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Despite rules barring ICE from detaining pregnant, postpartum, or nursing women, in February 2026, ICE detained Djeniffer Benvinda Ribeiro Sameda, a Cape Verdean national who was six months pregnant, outside the Brockton Courthouse. ICE held Ms. Ribeiro Sameda in a temporary holding facility without a proper diet and where she did not receive treatment despite being in medical distress with abdominal pains and nausea for three days. ICE eventually transferred Ms. Ribeiro Sameda to Beth Israel Hospital under ICE guard. Ms. Ribeiro Sameda was eventually released from the hospital after advocacy from the LUCE Immigrant Justice Networker and her attorney.

**WHEREAS,** In December 2024, this Council passed a resolution re-affirming the City’s dedication to the Boston Trust Act, originally enacted in 2014 and amended in 2019, which prohibits the Boston Police Department (BPD) from aiding federal agencies in civil immigration actions, while allowing BPD to participate in actions aimed at serious violent criminals.

**WHEREAS,** On February 11, 2026, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu signed an Executive Order that prohibits ICE from using municipal property and reinforces that violence committed on municipal property by federal agents will be prosecuted. Neighboring Cambridge, Chelsea, Somerville, Newton and Lynn followed suit. Cities including Providence, Rhode Island and Worcester, Massachusetts have barred ICE agents from using municipal properties as staging areas.; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Despite this, recent reporting by GBH News has shown that across Massachusetts some local police, sheriff, and District Attorney offices, including the Suffolk County sheriff's office, have been in communication with ICE over the last year in "more ways than previously disclosed."

**WHEREAS,** Indeed, the Massachusetts Department of Correction maintains a 287(g) agreement with ICE and regularly transfers people exiting state prisons directly into ICE custody. It is believed that Massachusetts is the only state where Democrats fully control the state government that has such an agreement.

**WHEREAS,** On January 28, 2026 the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) filed H.D. 5608, *An Act promoting rule of law, oversight, trust, and equal constitutional treatment*, colloquially known as the PROTECT Act, which has also been endorsed by immigrants rights and civil rights organizations, such as the MIRA Coalition and the ACLU of Massachusetts; *and*

**WHEREAS,** If passed, the PROTECT Act would bar local law enforcement cooperation with ICE for civil offenses statewide, prohibit the Commonwealth from entering into new 287(g) agreements, bar civil detention in courthouses, establish clear rights for detainees when entering detention facilities by ensuring legal communication and language access for those detained, and empower the Massachusetts Attorney General to seek court orders to compel compliance. Under the new system, local agreements are allowed for serious crimes, but would require approval from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), after public notice, comment periods, consultation with the Attorney General, publication of a legal analysis and regular reporting; *and*

**WHEREAS,** It is essential that we support safe access to our courts, restore trust in our local law enforcement agents and protect the rights of all of our residents, regardless of immigration status; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council endorses H.D. 5608, the PROTECT Act, and supports swift action on the bill from the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Filed on: February 25, 2026