

**MINNEAPOLIS PARK POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

**SPECIAL ORDER 2025-07**



DATE ISSUED: December 30, 2025	DATE EFFECTIVE: December 30, 2025	NUMBER: SO 25-07	PAGE: 1 of 10
TO: All Park Police Personnel		RETENTION DATE: Indefinitely	
SUBJECT: Police Authority in Immigration Matters – REVISED		APPROVED BY: Chief J. Ohotto	

**I. Purpose**

The Minneapolis Park Police Department (MPPD) is committed to fostering trust and collaboration with all people in the city, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, or immigration status. Minneapolis is home to a diverse and vibrant community, and the Department values and celebrates this diversity as a source of strength.

The MPPD also recognizes that consistency in policy with the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) is important when wearing the MPD uniform. Consistency results in reduced confusion for the public and delivery of seamless service across the city. As such, this policy substantively mirrors MPD policy.

- A.** The MPPD recognizes the fear of deportation prevents some undocumented community members from reporting, interacting, and cooperating with law enforcement. The MPPD is dedicated to community policing as a means of reducing crime while building community trust. Therefore, the MPPD will investigate criminal activity without regard to a person’s actual or perceived immigration status. Doing otherwise would have a chilling effect on our ability to provide public safety to our community.
- B.** The MPPD ensures that immigration status will never impede access to law enforcement services and is dedicated to providing equitable, bias-free service to all members of the community. Protecting the safety and civil rights of every community member remains the core mission of the MPPD.
- C.** Members might be dispatched to calls for service in incidents that could ultimately involve federal immigration enforcement. Such incidents may include, but are not limited to, reports of possible kidnappings, suspicious person calls, people refusing to provide identification, or situations involving tension between law enforcement and the community. In these situations, members are expected to act in a fair, transparent, and impartial manner to uphold public safety and maintain community trust.
- D.** The MPPD works cooperatively with state and federal agencies to further public safety and criminal investigations, but do not operate programs for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws. The enforcement of civil and criminal federal immigration laws falls exclusively within the authority of the federal government and not the MPPD. Federal

agencies such as the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Department of Homeland Security, are empowered as the sole authorities in immigration matters. The MPPD does not have jurisdiction or authority over matters pertaining to the federal government. The federal government has no obligation to, and often does not inform, the MPPD of their activities in the city.

This policy is modeled after the requirements of the City of Minneapolis's Separation Ordinance (Minneapolis Ordinance Chapter 19).

## **II. Policy**

### **A. Prohibition On Enforcing Federal Immigration Laws**

The City's Separation Ordinance prohibits City public safety personnel from undertaking any law enforcement action for the purpose of enforcing any federal civil immigration law and any federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a person's presence in, entry, or reentry to, or employment in, the United States, when not accompanied by other criminal conduct. These laws are referred to as "federal immigration laws" in this policy. Any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of "federal immigration laws" are referred to as "immigration enforcement."

### **B. No Actions to Determine Immigration Status**

Members shall not initiate actions to determine, verify, or detect a person's immigration status, subject to narrow exceptions (see Exceptions for Determining Immigration Status in [II-C]). This includes, but is not limited to:

- Questioning a person about their immigration status.
- Stopping or detaining a person solely for the purpose of determining their immigration status.

### **C. Exceptions for Determining Immigration Status**

#### **1. Human trafficking or smuggling**

Members may only initiate inquiries related to immigration status when specifically enforcing laws in which immigration status is an element of the crime, such as human trafficking or smuggling.

- a. When questioning, arresting, or detaining any person under this exception, the member shall articulate and document the reason the member believes the exception applies.

2. Criminal investigations of people who may also be in violation of federal immigration laws

This policy does not prohibit members from assisting federal law enforcement in the investigation of criminal activity involving people who may also be in violation of federal immigration laws.

Example: A person wanted for robbery who also has a federal immigration warrant for overstaying a visa. In that example, members would arrest the person for the robbery, but not for the federal immigration warrant.

- a. If a member determines they no longer have probable cause (PC) or reasonable articulable suspicion (RAS) to detain the person for criminal activity, the member shall release the person.
- b. Accordingly, members shall not detain people for potential criminal activity for the benefit of federal agents investigating federal immigration law.

#### **D. Report Writing**

If immigration status is uncovered inadvertently and is not an element of a crime such as human trafficking or smuggling, or a situation where the victim was targeted, threatened, or harassed because of their perceived immigration status, members are not required to include the person's immigration status in reports or similar documentation, and should ask the victim if they are comfortable with their status being included in the narrative of the report.

#### **E. Direction From MPPD Only**

MPPD members shall only operate under the direction of MPPD leadership. Absolutely no orders, guidance, or tasks from any outside agency or person shall be followed by Department personnel unless explicitly validated and authorized through the MPPD chain of command.

### **III. Procedures/Regulations**

#### **A. Separation from Immigration Enforcement Activities**

1. MPPD members, including those who are involved with federal task forces, shall not participate in immigration enforcement.
2. Members shall not provide information to immigration enforcement agents for the purpose of locating a person solely for federal immigration enforcement actions, including information that an arrest has occurred and personally identifying information such as addresses, locations of employment, or schools being attended. If members receive a request for information related to immigration status or citizenship from federal authorities, they shall immediately forward the request to the City Attorney's Office at [CAOimmigration@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:CAOimmigration@minneapolismn.gov) for lawful handling and response.

3. Members shall not remove or transport people in immigration enforcement proceedings.
4. Members shall not self-deploy to any immigration enforcement-related events.
5. Members shall not participate in detaining people based solely on immigration status or assist in any federal immigration enforcement actions.
  - a. If members encounter immigration agents during the course of their duties, they must remain focused strictly on the criminal, non-immigration aspects of the incident and avoid involvement in immigration-related activities.
    - i. Members shall activate their body worn cameras (BWCs) when required by prevailing policy.
    - ii. Members shall notify the MPPD shift supervisor and MPD Watch Commander or designated supervisor ([III-B-2]) as soon as possible that immigration agents are on-scene. The MPPD shift supervisor shall notify the Park Police Chief, or designee.
    - iii. When members have resolved the reason they were at the incident, they shall clear from the scene as soon as possible.
  - b. If a situation arises where federal agents, including immigration officers, are being assaulted, or if there is a clear and immediate threat to life, serious injury, or destruction of property, members are expected to take appropriate action to maintain public safety and restore order. This response is not an endorsement of immigration enforcement, but a duty to uphold peace and protect all people from harm.
6. Members shall not interfere with or obstruct lawful federal immigration enforcement.
  - a. If members encounter people taking immigration enforcement action who are not readily identifiable as federal agents, members should, when safe and practical to do so, attempt to verify the credentials of the on-scene federal lead-agent, supervisor, or agent in charge, and capture the verification process on their BWC.

Examples of credentials could include a badge, an employee ID, uniform or uniform patches.

- i. Members shall take appropriate enforcement action if they determine a person is not a legitimate federal enforcement officer. Such actions may include detaining or arresting the person for impersonating a peace officer.
- ii. If the person who is not readily identifiable as a federal agent refuses to provide credentials, members shall notify their supervisor, and the supervisor shall respond to the scene. The supervisor shall contact dispatch to request

information from the likely federal agency that might assist in verifying the agents' status.

- iii. If it is an apparent impersonation of a law enforcement officer or another apparent crime, members shall take appropriate law enforcement action.
7. To ensure proper oversight and appropriate response to incidents, Park Police supervisors shall respond to calls for service that potentially involve federal immigration enforcement, or when requested by a member.
8. Members shall not rely on federal agencies to provide translation services and shall secure any necessary services in accordance with prevailing policy.

## **B. Response to Public Gatherings Related to Immigration Enforcement**

Following is guidance for MPPD members interacting with crowds engaging in their First Amendment rights to peacefully assemble:

1. General response to crowds
  - b. The MPPD will treat any crowd forming in response to federal immigration enforcement and other immigration-related protests the same as any other First Amendment-protected event in accordance with prevailing policy.
    - i. MPPD members shall be mindful that the members of the public have a First Amendment right to record, observe, and object to law enforcement actions, within lawful constraints.
  - c. MPPD members shall not provide crowd management to aid immigration enforcement; members shall only assist with crowd control to maintain peace and enforce state and local laws.
  - d. If members arrive on scene due to a crowd situation and determine that immigration agents are involved, members shall notify the MPPD shift supervisor and MPD Watch Commander or designated supervisor ([III-B-2]) immediately.
    - i. If there are no threats of violence, actual violence, life-threatening situations, or destruction of property, the members shall disengage immediately, clear from the scene, and return to service.
  - e. If there is no clear and immediate threat to life, serious injury, or destruction of property, members shall **not** do the following to aid immigration enforcement activities:
    - Escort federal immigration agents to enforcement locations.
    - Close streets when there are no traffic or public safety issues.
    - Use or allow use of Department facilities (including parking lots and garages) or equipment.

- Conduct crowd control when members of the public are peacefully assembling and exercising First Amendment rights, when no threat to public safety exists.

## 2. MPD Watch Commander and designated supervisor

- a. The MPD Watch Commander will be the point of contact for guidance on responding to federal immigration enforcement for City of Minneapolis incidents and situations.
- b. When the MPD Watch Commander is not on duty, the MPD Deputy Chief of Patrol will designate a supervisor at the rank of Lieutenant or higher, or the highest-ranking supervisor on duty, to be the sole point of contact. The Deputy Chief of Patrol will notify dispatch with the designated supervisor's information, so that members can contact dispatch to determine who the designated supervisor is.
- c. The Park Police Chief, or designee, shall be contacted by the MPPD shift supervisor when encountering immigration matters involving park property or Park Police members. The Park Police Chief reserves all authority over Park Police operations and/or responses.

## 3. HELP calls related to immigration enforcement

- a. If there is a call for help from a federal agency, the MPD Watch Commander or designated supervisor shall be immediately notified. Members may respond to the call if the MPD Watch Commander or designated supervisor has approved a response due to threats of violence, actual violence, life-threatening situations, or destruction of property.
- b. As quickly as possible, the MPD Watch Commander or designated supervisor shall do the following:
  - i. Attempt a callback with the requesting agency, and then speak to the highest-ranking member of the outside agency on scene to verify the on-scene circumstances and determine a coordinated response plan if appropriate to ensure member safety. The calls shall be recorded via BWC.
  - ii. View or request an MPD member to view any live milestone cameras in the area or UAV video to verify the circumstances, when feasible.
- c. If the MPD Watch Commander or designated supervisor determines the situation does not involve threats of violence, actual violence, life-threatening situations, or destruction of property, they shall not approve members to respond, shall notify the requesting agency that MPD/MPPD will not be responding, and shall then immediately notify the Chief of Police.
- d. If the MPD Watch Commander or designated supervisor finds there are threats of violence, actual violence, life-threatening situations, or destruction of property, they

may approve MPD members to respond to the scene, and shall then immediately notify the Chief of Police.

- e. If the MPD Watch Commander authorizes a response, and Park Police officers are in a position to provide emergency assistance due to threats of violence, actual violence, life-threatening situation, or destruction of property, Park Police officers may respond to assist. The on-duty Park Police supervisor shall immediately notify the Park Police Chief, or designee.
- f. The Watch Commander or designated supervisor shall coordinate the response, assess tactical options, and determine whether MPD members should take action when they arrive on scene.

Examples of tactical options could include UAVs, uniform presence, negotiators, BRRT, traffic agents, etc.

- g. The on-duty Park Police supervisor will monitor and coordinate the response of any/all Park Police employees.
- h. If members arrive and there are no threats of violence, actual violence, life-threatening situations, or destruction of property, the members shall immediately disengage and clear from the scene.

Example: People physically blocking streets and yelling does not qualify as a threat of violence, actual violence, life-threatening situation, or destruction of property, and members should clear from the scene.

- i. The MPPD shift supervisor or the MPD Watch Commander (or designated supervisor) shall assign a responding member to complete a Police Report with the code "ICE" or any other applicable codes.
  - i. All members that respond shall document their response in the Police Report.

### **C. Sensitive Locations**

1. If MPD is notified that a federal agency has entered a house of worship, hospital, or school for the purpose of conducting immigration enforcement, the Watch Commander or designated supervisor ([III-B-2]) shall be immediately notified. The Watch Commander or designated supervisor shall then notify the Chief of Police.
2. The Watch Commander or designated supervisor shall assign a supervisor from the affected precinct to respond and investigate. If no supervisor in the affected precinct is available, another supervisor will be assigned.
  - a. At a minimum, the responding supervisor shall attempt to verify the information by interviewing witnesses, viewing and retrieving video, and contacting the federal agency involved.

- b. The supervisor shall update the Watch Commander or designated supervisor and the Chief of Police with their preliminary findings and the results of their investigation.
- c. The supervisor shall complete a Police Report for the incident.

#### **D. Duty to Intervene for Excessive Force**

1. Members shall not interfere with or obstruct lawful federal immigration enforcement ([III-A-6]), however when it is apparent to a member that federal agents are using clearly excessive force, members shall verbally or physically intervene to stop the excessive force when they have both the reasonably safe opportunity and the means to do so.

Examples could include, but are not limited to, kicking or punching a person in the head when they are compliant or passively resisting, shooting an unarmed person who is not posing a threat, etc.

2. If members witness a federal agent taking an action the member feels requires intervention, the member shall announce over the radio as soon as possible they are intervening (example: "Squad 320 intervening").
3. If a member is unclear if they are witnessing or witnessed excessive force by federal agents, they shall immediately notify the Park Police shift supervisor. The MPPD shift supervisor shall also notify the Park Police Chief, and the MPD Watch Commander or designated supervisor ([III-B-2] for guidance.

#### **E. Duty to Report**

1. Members shall document and report all incidents where suspected federal enforcement activity involves apparent excessive force or other suspected civil rights violations, and all incidents in which the member intervenes with federal agents.
  - a. Members shall immediately notify their supervisor, and the supervisor shall immediately notify the MPD Watch Commander and Park Police Chief.
    - i. Members shall inform the supervisor for awareness if they already talked to the Watch Commander or designated supervisor (as detailed above in [III-B-2]).
  - b. The member who witnessed the incident shall document the conduct and any interventions with a report using the code "ICEF" and send the case number to their supervisor.
  - c. Upon request, members should cooperate with misconduct investigations of federal agents.

#### **F. Notification Requirements**

1. If federal immigration authorities seek MPPD involvement, or members learn that immigration officials are operating within any area of the city:

- a. The member shall notify their supervisor regarding the immigration-related activities, and the supervisor shall notify the Park Police Chief and the MPD Watch Commander. If the member is a supervisor, they may make the notifications themselves.
2. Unless the incident is an emergency involving violence, threats of violence, or a life-threatening situation, or there is destruction of property, the Park Police Chief, or designee, must give approval before any action is taken that isn't covered by this policy. If action is taken because of an emergency circumstance, notification to the Park Police Chief should be made as soon as possible.

An example of such an action might be staging MPPD resources nearby at the request of immigration officials.

- a. Any actions taken must be lawful, necessary, and fully consistent with both MPPD policy and the Separation Ordinance, regardless of a person's immigration status.

#### **G. Separation from Alerts, Detainers, and Non-Criminal Warrants**

Members are prohibited from stopping, detaining, or taking law enforcement action against a person, vehicle, business, or residence on the sole basis of administrative immigration alerts, immigration detainers, or administrative ICE warrants.

1. Local police do not have the authority to take law enforcement action for federal administrative civil warrants.
2. If a person is found to have a National Crime Information Center (NCIC) hit, members shall verify the hit is not solely for an administrative ICE warrant prior to taking any action.
3. Members shall not arrest or detain a person solely based on an administrative (ICE) warrant.

Examples of the language seen in NCIC administrative ICE warrants:

##### **Deported Felon**

Warning Regarding Following Record- Subject of NIC/N307770847 is a previously deported felon. Contact LESC at (877) 999-5372 for immediate hit confirmation and availability of Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detainer.

##### **Absconder**

Warning Regarding Follow Record – Subject of NIC/N307770847 has an outstanding administrative warrant of removal from the United States. Contact LESC at (877) 999-5372 removal from the United States. Contact LESC at (877) 999-5372 for immediate hit confirmation and availability of Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detainer.

- a. This does not prevent members from taking law enforcement action on crimes, detainers, or civil (non-criminal) warrants unrelated to immigration enforcement.
4. MPD/MPPD does not have a municipal jail and cannot house undocumented people, even if requested.


#### **H. Identification Cards of Foreign Nationals**

Identification card of foreign nations may include, but are not limited to:

- Foreign government-issued identification cards, such as passports.
  - Consular identification cards.
  - National ID cards.
1. Members shall take reports for missing, lost or stolen identification cards of foreign nationals in accordance with prevailing policy
  2. Members shall not seize identification cards of foreign nationals, except when pursuant to a criminal investigation and in accordance with policy and law.

#### **I. Communicating With the Public about Immigration Enforcement**

Members are encouraged to explain this policy and its requirements to members of the public, in a respectful manner that does not discredit the Park Police Department or the - Park Board. This could include explaining that the MPPD does not collect or communicate information about immigration status.

  
\_\_\_\_\_ 12/30/2025  
Al Bangoura, Superintendent                      Date