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Public Comments for City Council Meetings - Submission #11847

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Public Comment

Comment Regarding Council Statement on Community Safety, Inclusion, and Immigration Enforcement

(Agenda Item V.A.)

I appreciate the Council's statement affirming safety, dignity, and equitable treatment for all residents regardless of immigration status, and the clarification that civil immigration enforcement is carried out by federal agencies.

I am submitting this comment to note, for the public record, that values-based statements are most effective when paired with clearly articulated procedural guardrails.

While the statement addresses access to information and community reassurance, it does not yet address how separation between local government functions and federal civil immigration enforcement is maintained in practice. Residents are seeking clarity not only about jurisdiction, but about process — including what information is not shared, what requests are declined, and what limits exist on the use of City systems, data, or personnel.

Experience across Minnesota shows that fear and disengagement grow most quickly in the absence of defined boundaries, even where intent is benign. Clear, documented guardrails — communicated in plain language — are essential to preserving trust, civic participation, and public safety.

I respectfully submit this comment to encourage the Council to treat this statement as a starting point and to consider future action that includes:

explicit articulation of limits on City involvement,

transparent public communication of those limits, and

a documented process for review should circumstances change.

This submission is intended to support clarity, not to request action this evening.