



Human Relations Commission Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION DATE: AUGUST 28, 2025

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER CERVANTES WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CITY COUNCIL AND CITY OF RIVERSIDE AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY, COMMUNITY SAFETY, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND CLEAR IDENTIFICATION STANDARDS IN FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE.

ISSUE:

The issue for the Human Relations Commission consideration is discussion of a local supportive role in calling for a community and public safety resolution that outlines clear expectations and recommended actions to address ongoing federal immigration enforcement activities in the City of Riverside.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Human Relations Commission provide the following:

1. Provide input and feedback to the attached Resolution; and
2. Recommend the City Council adopt the attached Resolution.

BACKGROUND:

On September 18, 2001, the City Council adopted a “Building a More Inclusive Riverside Community” statement consisting of a set of principles based upon the premises that (1) Riversiders should be and see themselves as respected, contributing members of the community; and (2) that all Riversiders should be bound by a common set of principles based on fairness of treatment, recognition of rights, acceptance of responsibilities, commitment to equality, and dedication to expanding opportunities for all. It further states, “a city of considerable racial, ethnic, religious, and other types of diversity, Riverside has etched a complex history. That history has included both significant efforts to achieve greater justice, equality, and understanding, as well as unfortunate periods and events that have demonstrated the need for increased commitment, ideas, and action to work toward these goals.”

In support of the City of Riverside’s long-standing culture and responsibility to uphold the values of inclusion, diversity, and equality, regardless of religion, race or nationality; a resolution has been drafted to address the extremely concerning actions and violation of constitutional rights impacting U.S. citizens and noncitizens alike by the Trump administration as it relates to immigration and federal enforcement activities.

There have been documented arrests made by police across the United States, including in Southern California, where a man suspected of posing as a federal immigration officer was arrested in June 2025. Authorities in several different cases have charged people for kidnapping, impersonating a police officer, assault and battery, and possession for an unregistered firearm, to name a few.

The general public and national outlets have raised valid concerns about the violation of the 4th amendment and racial profiling laws following an interview where Border Czar Homan stated that federal immigration agents can indiscriminately “detain people based on physical appearance.”

The resolution addresses the increasing reports of recent federal immigration enforcement operations in various Wards which have raised fear and concerns among community members when conducted by California Border Patrol (CBP) and Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents using unmarked vehicles, plainclothes attire, often with their faces covered or masked, and without clearly visible identification. These agents have also refused to identify themselves or their agency in raids that have taken place at the Home Depot off Madison Street in Riverside and other parts of the City limits.

The resolution aims to provide clear steps that the City can take to protect the constitutional rights of residents, regardless of their immigration status, and ensure that all our neighborhoods are free and safe from vigilantes impersonating law enforcement. This is critical to preserving trust within our local law enforcement and keeping our communities safe. Furthermore, it outlines steps that the City Council and City staff can take to support families and the community at large during these challenging and uncertain times.

Lastly, the resolution is in alignment with our Envision Riverside 2025 plan which states; the City of Riverside is committed to providing high-quality municipal services to ensure a safe, inclusive, and livable community; and Riverside is a city where every person is respected and cherished, where equity is essential to community well-being, where residents support one another, and where opportunities exist for all to prosper. In Riverside, everyone comes together to help the community, economy, and environment reach their fullest potential for the public good.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of the proposed resolution.

Prepared by: Clarissa Cervantes, Councilmember Ward 2
Approved by: Clarissa Cervantes, Councilmember Ward 2

Referred by:



Clarissa Cervantes
Councilmember Ward 2

Attachment: Draft Resolution