



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

Public Health and Community Safety Committee, November 19, 2025

City Council

Emily Lazzaro, Chair
Justin Tseng, Vice Chair
Anna Callahan
Kit Collins
Matt Leming

This meeting will take place at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Medford City Hall, 85 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford, MA and via Zoom.

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86976074869?pwd=ya0LVJob7uUtbXCN3EX77Yi3syF7Br.1>

Call-in Number: +19292056099,,86976074869#,,,*619006#

Live: Channel 22 (Comcast), Channel 43 (Verizon), [YouTube](#), and medfordtv.org.

To submit written comments, please email REliseo@medford-ma.gov.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

25-179

Submitted by Medford Police Department

Review of MPD Report - City of Medford Ordinances Section 50-105, Welcoming City Ordinance

Adjournment

Response to City CR



MEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

100 Main Street
Medford, Massachusetts 02155-4510



Paul F. Covino
Chief of Police

Emergency - 911
Business (781) 391-6404

FAX: (781) 219-3709

MEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT WELCOMING CITY ORDINANCE REPORT October 14, 2025

Background

Enforcement of the nation's civil immigration laws is the primary responsibility of the federal government. Accordingly, the Medford Police Department cannot be compelled by the federal government to carry out civil immigration related investigations in the City and any interaction with ICE must comply with state and local legal requirements, including the Supreme Judicial Court's decision in Lunn v. Commonwealth, 477 Mass. 517 (2017). Additional overview for background relative to local law enforcement's role in civil immigration enforcement and the Supreme Judicial Court's decision in Lunn v. Commonwealth, 477 Mass. 517 (2017), is available from Attorney General Campbell's Office, here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ago-ice-guidance-05292025/download>.

For additional background on this topic, please be advised that the Medford Police Department's Police Policy and Procedure 2018-01 also sets forth the following requirements:

Any person who is arrested by this department shall be booked in accordance with preexisting policy. If in the course of the standard processing procedures, ICE files an immigration detainer with the Medford Police Department, the arrestee shall be made aware of the detainer and provided a copy. (which is the original fax sent to Medford Police) The arrestee shall also be made aware that this department will not hold them in custody on the ICE detainer if they post bail or are released on their own recognizance.

In response to the reporting requirements established by Section 50-105, Chapter 50 Article IV – Welcoming City Ordinance of the City of Medford MA, the Medford Police Department provides the within information in response to the inquiries below based on information available to me in my capacity as Chief of Police, Provisional, since June 12, 2025.

- a. The total number of ICE detainers, administrative warrants, and other requests for information or assistance from the federal immigration agency;

The Medford Police Department has received some ICE detainers, but we do not know exactly how many we received. The Police Department does not and has no way to track that information based on its available database used for local law enforcement investigations. The Police Department does not maintain a list of such immigration information relative to federal immigration enforcement conducted by the federal government. There are many other civil documents that are also sent to the Police Department and in my experience, the Police Department does not track such information relative to its local law enforcement role and responsibilities. Those documents go directly to the arrestee, if applicable.



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As Provisional Chief of Police, to my knowledge, we have not received any **administrative immigration warrants**. The criminal warrants Medford Police normally arrest for are stored and tracked in the MA Warrant Management System. If the Police Department received a warrant from the federal government, it would be signed and sent to court with the arrest paperwork. The booking of that individual would reflect that the arrest was a warrant arrest. The Police Department does not track such information as part of its local law enforcement responsibilities. Based on the information I have reviewed, to date, in my capacity as Chief of Police, to my knowledge, the Medford Police Department has not received and/or arrested anyone on a federal administrative/civil immigration warrant in the past six (6) months.

In July, the Medford Police Department responded to a public safety call on Rt. 16 w. near Locust Street, involving an ICE agent. The ICE agent called for emergency assistance due to public safety concerns. During the response to 911 calls, MA State Police and other ICE agents arrived on scene to assist that agent prior to the arrival of the Medford Police Department. Since the incident had ended and there was no threat of imminent harm to anybody, the Medford police officers were able to clear from that scene with no further involvement. ICE has not otherwise requested information or assistance from the Medford Police Department that I am aware of as Chief of Police.

- b. An account for which each instance in which information was given to a federal immigration agency, with the names of individuals redacted

To my knowledge, there has been no instance in which information was given by the Medford Police to a federal immigration agency that is not expressly authorized by the Ordinance.

- c. Names and descriptions of all task forces in which the Medford Police Department Participated in which a federal immigration agency also participated

The Medford Police Department does not currently participate in a task force that a federal immigration agency also participates in.

Paul F. Covino

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul F. Covino".

Chief of Police / Provisional
pcovino@medfordpolice.com