

Community Trust Ordinance Key Points

Revised May 7, 2017

Overview: While Fort Collins strives to be a welcoming city for everyone, Fuerza Latina, a long-standing local nonprofit comprised of immigrants and their allies, has identified the need to strengthen trust between city service providers and our immigrant community by eliminating unnecessary inquiries into immigration status.

Without a healthy level of trust in the City, immigrants of any kind are less likely to report crimes, provide testimony, or aid in police investigation. They are also hesitant to access important health and human services. When this happens the health and safety of all communities in Fort Collins are negatively affected.

Key Points:

- Supports and aligns with how the City of Fort Collins already generally operates. It simply provides clarity and ensures city employees and officials are consistent in the performance of their duties
- Sends a clear message to everyone in our city that we value the safety of all members of our community
- Would strengthen relationships between immigrant families and City service providers
- Is supported by the local immigrant community as well as their allies
- Would support victims and witnesses of crimes, thereby facilitating police investigations and contributing to the prevention of future crimes
- Consistent with best practices in community policing and recommendations by national organizations that study this issue
- Does not, in any way, limit or prevent the City from complying with State and Federal laws. It does not designate Fort Collins as a sanctuary city
- Is consistent with the City's Social Sustainability Strategic Plan Goal B.1 "To promote and maintain a welcoming, inclusive community where people feel connected." and Action item 2.B: "Research existing partner and community programs to help inform refugee and immigrant populations of their legal rights and responsibilities; seek opportunities to create programs where none currently exist."

Positive outcome for us as a community:

- Reinforces our values as a city that is welcoming and supportive of all its community members
- Promotes trust and safety within the community
- Reduces barriers to reporting criminal activity and crimes, thereby improving community safety overall
- Reduces costs and risks to the city by focusing resources on local concerns and not areas of Federal jurisdiction
- Provides clear guidelines to city officials/employees thereby helping to avoid confusion and lighten workload for city employees

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