



**CITY OF EASTHAMPTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Easthampton Municipal Building
50 Payson Ave., Ste. 100
Easthampton, Massachusetts 01027-2260
Telephone #: (413) 529-1400, ext. 460

**Easthampton City Council Resolution in Support of
Holding Federal Immigration Agents Accountable for Violations of
Massachusetts Criminal Law**

The Trump Administration has weaponized the federal government against our neighbors and community members in an unconstitutional overreach and violation of basic civil liberties, in service of a white nationalist political agenda targeting immigrants, communities of color, and queer people. This violence is happening across the country, with at least 14 detainees killed in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody since the start of 2026, including Jose Guadalupe Ramos-Solano and Aled Damien Carbonell-Betancourt.¹ We have seen it here in Easthampton, with eyewitnesses reporting ICE abductions of at least 4 individuals from our own city streets.²

WHEREAS, Easthampton is home to a thriving community of immigrants whom are an integral part of the Easthampton community, whose contributions are valued and whom the city seeks to treat with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration continues to direct federal agencies to terrorize immigrants, communities of color, protesters, and communities in which the elected officials oppose Trump and/or his policies; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has insisted, contrary to the clear letter of the law, that federal agents and troops have absolute immunity from any state prosecution, up to and including prosecutions related to assaults, kidnappings, and killings; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) refuses to investigate in good faith crimes committed by federal agents, and refuses to cooperate with local law enforcement when federal agents kill, assault, or otherwise injure residents of the United States; and

¹ Strickler, Laura, Colleen Long, and Daniella Silva. "14 ICE Detainees Have Died So Far in 2026." NBC News, March 30, 2026. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/14-ice-detainees-died-far-2026-rcna265843>.

² Ferland, Sam. "Eyewitnesses Report Detainments in Easthampton." Daily Hampshire Gazette, September 11, 2025. <https://gazettenet.com/2025/09/11/eyewitnesses-report-detainments-in-easthampton/>.

WHEREAS, the DOJ, in coordination with the Trump administration, has undertaken unlawful investigations into the protected speech and associations of victims of ICE brutality, in violation of their First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the sworn duty of local law enforcement is to protect all residents against criminal acts and uphold the laws of the Commonwealth and the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the use of section 287(g) agreements has diverted taxpayer resources away from public safety and to immigration enforcement, and has led to gross civil rights abuses across the nation, including abuses against Massachusetts residents across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the Trump administration began operations targeting Latino and immigrant communities in Massachusetts, with most of those detained having no criminal records, in unconstitutional retaliation for the perceived political affiliations of Massachusetts residents; and

WHEREAS, as of March 10, 2026, 7,030 people from 100 countries have been arrested by ICE in MA, nearly five times the 1,470 immigrants arrested here in the final 415 days of the Biden administration. They have been abducted by ICE in courts, the Federal Courthouse in Boston, police departments, and the streets of Massachusetts;³ and

WHEREAS, federal officials and agents have admitted to illegally targeting residents by their race or color, and the federal courts have taken the position in *Vazquez Perdomo v. Noem* that racial profiling is acceptable in policing;⁴ and

WHEREAS, such incidents may be crimes under Massachusetts law, and there is a well-established history of state prosecutions of federal agents and troops who commit crimes in violation of state law;⁵ and

WHEREAS, the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution does not "gran[t] a license to federal officials to flout state laws with impunity," and provides no immunity to federal officials who violate state criminal laws;⁶ and

³ Rios, Simón. "7,030 ICE Arrests in Massachusetts, Nearly Five Times the Number Under Biden." WBUR, 1 Apr. 2026, <https://www.wbur.org/news/2026/04/01/7000-ice-arrests-massachusetts-trump>.

⁴ *Vazquez Perdomo v. Noem*, 148 F.4th 656 (9th Cir. 2025)

⁵ *U.S. ex rel. Drury v. Lewis*, 200 U.S. 1, 7–8 (1906); *Whitehead v. Senkowski*, 943 F.2d 230, 235–36 (2d Cir. 1991); *Morgan v. People of State of California*, 743 F.2d 728, 733–34 (9th Cir. 1984); *Birsch v. Tumbleson*, 31 F.2d 811;

⁶ *Whitehead v. Senkowski*, 943 F.2d 230, 234 (2d Cir. 1991)

WHEREASWHEREAS, the *Easthampton Welcoming Community Trust Ordinance* affirms that Easthampton is a welcoming city and seeks to ensure trust between employees, officials, representatives of the City, all residents of our City, and visitors to our City, facilitating dialogue as well as effective law enforcement and public safety; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Easthampton City Council, do hereby condemn the unconstitutional actions of President Trump, his appointees, and federal agents engaged in unlawful operations to attack people in Massachusetts communities on the basis of their perceived race, ethnicity, sexual preference, gender identity, language, or political preferences, and call on other communities and public officials to join in this condemnation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon state and local public safety officials to take affirmative steps to protect residents of the Commonwealth, Hampshire County, and the City of Easthampton from the unlawful actions of federal agents, including but not limited to:

- The Massachusetts Attorney General making a public statement confirming the principle that federal officials and agents are subject to state criminal jurisdiction;
- The Massachusetts Attorney General and the Northwestern District Attorney committing to undertaking investigations where evidence indicates that a crime has been committed by federal agents and to enforce state criminal laws against federal agents when they commit crimes in the state;
- The Attorney General and District Attorney's offices issuing guidelines to state and local law enforcement to preserve evidence, especially in cases of federal noncooperation with investigations;
- The Mayor of Easthampton committing to support investigations, with police and other public safety officials, of suspected illegal acts by federal agents by collecting and preserving evidence of potentially unlawful actions;
- The Mayor of Easthampton working with other Massachusetts local officials, including police and other public safety and municipal leaders in consultation with legal partners, to swiftly develop and implement protocols for protecting the safety and civil rights of all local residents in the event of a federal immigration enforcement action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll to immediately cease all cooperation agreements with ICE, including

ending the 287(g) agreement with the Massachusetts Department of Corrections and any informal agreements that may be in place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be sent to the offices of State Representative Homar Gómez, State Senator John Velis, Attorney General Andrea Campbell, Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan, as well as the office of Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, and the office of Governor Maura Healey.

Approved on the ____ day of _____, 2026.

EASTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

In accordance with Section 3-7 of the Easthampton Home Rule Charter, the following order, resolution or vote adopted by the City Council is presented to the Mayor for approval:

Mayor Salem Derby

Date