

Good Afternoon,

As you know, the United States is currently experiencing a transition in government at the national level that has led to a degree of instability that we have not experienced in a long while. This has generated so many questions about our work as a City—from our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, to immigration issues, to the future of federal funding support for the work we do. In the current climate, it is difficult to know or anticipate how things will develop from where we are today, but I can commit to you that City leadership will be paying close attention to all these developments, and that we will make every effort to keep the entire City team informed.

I want to start by saying Shoreline remains committed to being an inviting, equitable, and safe community for all. Our new vision states that “Shoreline is a welcoming and inclusive city where equity, well-being, and environmental sustainability are advanced by its diverse, connected community.” We will continue to work in cooperation with our community partners to ensure our services and programs are accessible and open to all individuals. In 2017 and 2020, the City Council passed Resolutions [No. 401](#) and [No. 467](#), respectively, affirming our commitment towards being an inclusive and anti-racist community. As an organization, we reaffirmed this commitment with not only our new Vision, but also our new Mission and Values.

Immigration Enforcement

When it comes to questions about immigration enforcement, I want you to be aware of the policies of the King County Sheriff’s Office (our Shoreline Police) and the City on this topic:

- Shoreline Police do not enforce immigration violations. State law prohibits police officers from asking or collecting information about a person’s immigration or citizenship status, unless there is a connection with a state or local criminal investigation, and officers may not detain a person solely to determine immigration status. Under state law and policy, the Department is restricted from sharing information with immigration officials, except under certain circumstances as required by law, such as a valid court order.
- The City policy prohibits staff from inquiring about an individual's immigration status and from engaging in activities to ascertain such status. You should not ask residents seeking city services about their immigration status.

We know this is a question you may be asked while working with community members. We have also heard that some of you have encountered people who were reluctant to engage with you out of fear. To help in situations like that, we will create informational cards for staff, translated in several languages, with the statement below:

I am with the City of Shoreline. I am here to conduct City business. I am not with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or any other federal law enforcement agency. I will not ask you about your immigration status.

Funding Impacts

The last two weeks have seen a blizzard of confusing and conflicting statements, actions, and orders, and it is impossible to know with any certainty what all this activity will mean in the weeks and months to come. We do know that the initial order to withhold funding from federal grants was

both rescinded and blocked by the courts, but it is not clear if, when, and how various federal funds will resume their flow to grant recipients. The threats to federal funding are real, as is the fear that those threats create. For now, those threats have not moved beyond fear.

Our Congressional delegation, led by Senators Murray and Cantwell, are fighting hard on this issue, and the City has been sharing information with them about the potential impacts of the loss of any already-awarded federal funding. They believe that, over time, the Courts and Congress will reestablish their authority and we will achieve some measure of resolution.

In the meantime, we have a few staff across the City whose work is funded, in whole or in part, through federal grants. Given the current uncertainty, I cannot predict where things will go, but I can say that I, the leadership team and all the supervisors and managers here in Shoreline will work with impacted staff to navigate this together. Nobody in this City needs to face this uncertainty alone. We are here to provide you with as much information as we can, even if on some days it won't feel like very much. Our Intergovernmental Relations Manager, Jim Hammond, has an open-door policy, and he invites you to check in if you have any pressing questions regarding federal funding. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Bristol

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