

City Managers:

Many of you are responding to a high volume of questions regarding ICE activity. Community members want guidance on how they should respond along with understanding our role as your contract police agency.

Immigration enforcement activities are the sole responsibility of the federal government. The Keep Washington Working Act is a state law that restricts local law enforcement's participation with federal immigration enforcement including detention. At the same time, we are legally prevented from obstructing or impeding on immigration enforcement operations.

As the King County Sheriff's Office, we have a responsibility to aid in the public safety of our communities and are committed to protecting the health and safety and dignity of our residents. The Sheriff's Office will respond to events that jeopardize public safety. Reports or concerns will be evaluated to determine appropriate response.

We urge anyone who witnesses a crime or suspects there is a legitimate threat to public safety to call 911. Deputies will assess and investigate as appropriate.

We encourage the people of King County to know their rights. A summary of legal rights related to civil immigration is available here: <https://www.atg.wa.gov/know-your-rights-civil-immigration-enforcement-washington>. A violation of rights by federal agents can be reported [here](#). The U and T Visa Programs offer temporary visas that offer protection to immigrant victims of serious crimes; [U and T Visa program - King County, Washington](#).

In King County, everyone has the right to feel, and be, safe in their communities. We recognize that tensions are high, law enforcement is under significant scrutiny and misinformation is rampant. I have complete confidence in our deputies as highly-trained professionals with a deep commitment to public safety and service.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Patti



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