

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 26-0046R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Ramos, Gray, and Parker
Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Conway, Schleifer, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, Jones, Glover,
McCray, Dorsey, and Middleton and President Cohen
Introduced and adopted: February 9, 2026

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**Request for State Action – Enact Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Response Legislation**

FOR the purpose of calling on the Maryland General assembly to pass and the Governor to sign legislation prohibiting law enforcement from using face coverings and legislation prohibiting specified government entities from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement and affirming the City’s commitment to the humane treatment of immigrant communities and the sanctity of our civil rights.

Recitals

The United States is experiencing an unprecedented number of arrests made by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, increasing the number of people held in ICE detention on any given day by 75% in just a year. ICE is using intimidation, brute force, and violence to detain individuals without determination of criminal record, legal status, or citizenship.

The General Assembly is currently considering 2 pieces of legislation that would govern the State’s response to ICE’s brutal and violent tactics. SB0001/HB0155 would prohibit a law enforcement officer from wearing a mask or other face covering to obscure their identity, a tactic used by ICE to intimidate the public and avoid accountability for illegal conduct.

SB0245/HB0444 would ban units of State and local government from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement with the federal government. Such agreements dictate that State and local law enforcement may identify and process someone for deportation if they are arrested for any infraction, stoking fears of racial profiling and encouraging distrust of local law enforcement.

The Baltimore City Council urges the Governor and General Assembly to enact these 2 measures. The ongoing ICE raids have instilled fear and anxiety across immigrant communities everywhere, causing kids to miss school, adults to miss work, and making families less likely to seek medical attention or assistance from law enforcement. The City Council is committed to protecting our immigrant neighbors, as well as the civil rights of all citizens.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
2 Council calls on the Maryland General assembly to pass and the Governor to sign legislation
3 prohibiting law enforcement from using face coverings and legislation prohibiting specified
4 government entities from entering into an immigration enforcement agreement.

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
6 Governor, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Speaker of the Maryland House of
7 Delegates, the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the General Assembly, the
8 Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Baltimore City Police Commissioner, and the Mayor's
9 Legislative Liaison to the City Council.