

Wilmington, Delaware
June 18, 2025

#xxxx

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Owens

WHEREAS, House Bill 182 (HB 182), An Act to Amend Title 11 of the Delaware Code Relating to Law Enforcement Agency Agreements, prohibits law-enforcement agencies from entering into or renewing an agreement, contract, memorandum of understanding, or other arrangement with the intent to “to enforce immigration violations or share immigration enforcement related data”; and

WHEREAS, HB 182 aligns with the legislative priorities of the Wilmington City Council 2022-2025 Strategic Plan by facilitating a "Connected, Informed, and Engaged Wilmington," whereby all residents are encouraged to engage in the social, cultural, and economic character of our City, without regard to their immigration status or national origin. Local policing is the most effective when residents feel safe engaging with an officer, reporting crimes, attending community meetings, seeking help during emergencies, and participating in public safety initiatives regardless of immigration status or national origin. The restrictions HB 182 places on police cooperation with federal immigration enforcement at the State level will preserve local law enforcement’s capacity to maintain trust within immigrant communities, uphold equal access to public services for all residents, and ensure that resources for crime prevention and public safety are directed towards activities that are within the authority and mandate of local law enforcement departments; and

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Police Department has made a commitment to operate within its scope of local authority and refrain from participating in federal immigration enforcement. HB 182 bolsters legal protection for police departments that have already

expressed their intention not to participate in federal immigration enforcement activities and creates clarity for law enforcement departments that are unsure of their responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, nationally, reports of civil rights violations, racial profiling, and procedural misconduct have increased significantly as a result of local police cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. Without legislative backing and clear guidance from the State, local police officers will become more susceptible to legal and political pressures that could impact how they carry out their duties. HB 182 will establish a clear legal boundary between immigration enforcement and municipal law enforcement responsibilities that reflects our City and State's dedication to the values of fairness and respect for all individuals, regardless of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, at least 10 other states, including Oregon, California, and Colorado have passed, or are in the process of considering, laws that limit law enforcement cooperation with immigration authorities. Since 1987, Oregon has reaffirmed protections for all residents by passing a statewide ban on state or local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement activities. California law prohibits law enforcement "agencies from investigating, interrogating, detaining, detecting, or arresting persons for immigration enforcement purposes." Colorado has enacted clear limitations on local law enforcement officers' authority to enter into contracting or other agreements for immigration detention; and

WHEREAS, HB 182 sends a strong message by providing a uniform State policy that safeguards all residents, regardless of immigration status or national origins, and it ensures that they can freely participate in the social and economic advancement of our municipalities and State without the threat of unwarranted detainment or deportation by local police.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative body is strongly in favor of House Bill 182 (HB 182), An Act to Amend Title 11 of the Delaware Code Relating to Law Enforcement Agency Agreements, which prohibits law enforcement agencies from entering into agreements with federal immigration enforcement authorities “to enforce immigration violations or share immigration enforcement related data.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wilmington City Council urges the honorable members of the Delaware General Assembly to pass HB 182.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: Pursuant the Wilmington City Council 2022-2025 Strategic Plan goal of a "Connected, Informed, and Engaged Wilmington," this Resolution urges the Delaware General Assembly to support House Bill 182 (HB 182)- An Act to Amend Title 11 of the Delaware Code Relating to Law Enforcement Agency Agreements that "prohibits law-enforcement agencies from entering into agreements with federal immigration enforcement authorities to enforce immigration violations or share immigration enforcement related data."