



The City of Prospect Heights

Policy Statement on Recent Federal Law Enforcement Immigration Operations

The City of Prospect Heights has seen and heard the concerns from our community regarding aggressive immigration operations from federal law enforcement agencies in the area. The concentrated enforcement action has been unprecedented in recent years and has deeply affected many community members who call Prospect Heights home. We recognize and understand that these operations conducted by federal agents within our City have been highly unsettling and have created an atmosphere of fear in our community.

All residents should know that the safety of every member of the community, regardless of immigration status, is the City of Prospect Heights's highest priority. The City's Response Policy to Federal Law Enforcement Immigration Operations defines legal restrictions, outlines the support systems offered to residents by the City, and re-enforces the commitment to serve all residents with respect, dignity, and compassion.

Prospect Heights Police Department Response

The Prospect Heights Police Department (PHPD) understands residents may have questions or concerns regarding the role of local police departments in federal civil immigration enforcement actions.

First and foremost, PHPD urges community members to contact the Police Department using 911 and request an officer if they feel unsafe at any time, for any reason. The Police Department will respond as soon as possible and assess the situation with professionalism.

PHPD is also aware of situations in other communities where there has been concern expressed around individuals identifying themselves as federal officers, particularly if they are not wearing uniforms or are not clearly identifiable. If a Prospect Heights community member has concerns about the identity of an individual claiming to be a federal immigration agent, or is worried about their safety during an interaction, please call 911 immediately and ask for an officer to be sent out to verify who the individual/s are.

Upon receiving a call, a Prospect Heights police officer will be dispatched to the location. The officer's role in this situation will be to confirm the legitimacy of the federal agent's presence. Police response is strictly to verify that the individual/s are federal agents and to ensure public safety, not to assist in the civil immigration enforcement action itself.

Based on the Illinois TRUST Act, officers are prohibited from:

- Stopping, arresting, searching, or detaining any person based solely on their immigration or citizenship status or place of birth,
- Complying with federal immigration detainers or administrative warrants,
- Providing support or assistance with an immigration agent's civil enforcement operations.

The Prospect Heights Police Department will only honor transfer requests or detain a person for federal authorities if presented with a federal criminal warrant signed by a judge. All officers are fully trained in the mandates of the TRUST Act.

In compliance with Federal Constitutional Law, Prospect Heights Police cannot:

- Prevent federal immigration enforcement officers from operating in any space that is open to the public at large. This includes streets, sidewalks, public parking lots, and the public portions of City facilities (e.g. lobbies, public bathrooms, etc.)
- Interfere with federal law enforcement officers' investigations,
- Enforce any type of federal uniform adjustment (like removal of face masks).

Non-public spaces will continue to be secured and not accessible by federal agents without a valid search warrant.

Note that calls for service to the Prospect Heights Police are often reviewed and referred to the Police Social Worker, who will follow up if there is a social service need. The Police and Social Services work closely to ensure safety and that basic needs are being met for all residents of Prospect Heights.

Social Services Department Response

The City of Prospect Heights's Social Services Department serves to improve the health and wellbeing of the community. Social services, emergency assistance, and support are available to any resident of Prospect Heights.

The City understands that some community members may feel unsafe leaving their homes or have barriers accessing services – please be aware that Social Services welcomes phone calls from community members in need. Call 847-398-5511 ext. 117 to contact Police Social Services.

To support Prospect Heights residents through these difficult times, Social Services offers a Social Worker trained in assessing the needs of individuals and connecting them with programs and resources. The Social Worker is also available to discuss concerns and provide emotional support to residents and their children. Social Services offers phone appointments or home visits for residents who are unable to access services in person.

This policy outlines the City's response to the federal immigration enforcement actions that may occur in the City of Prospect Heights. Although City administration will continue to monitor the situation, the City cannot legally take additional legislative action at this time. Between the State law mandate to refrain from aid to immigration enforcement and the US Constitution mandate forbidding interference with it, the City has determined that no additional legal and enforceable regulation can be made at this time. The City also does not want to do anything to detract from the support that the City provides to all its residents during these challenging times, regardless of immigration status under federal law.

For more information regarding Police Social Services please go online to [Police Social Services](#).

For more Information regarding immigration services, please go online to [Community Help Resources](#).