

CITY OF ROCKLAND, MAINE
ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #53
(As Amended 12/08/2025)
IN CITY COUNCIL

November 10, 2025

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT Federal Immigration Enforcement

THE CITY OF ROCKLAND HEREBY ORDAINS THAT CHAPTER 2, Administration, ARTICLE XIII Police Department, BE AMENDED BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING:

Sec. 2-1308 Federal Immigration Enforcement

A. Definitions. The following terms wherever used in this Ordinance shall have the following meanings:

1. “Citizenship or immigration status” means an individual’s citizenship or immigration status, as such status is defined in federal law.
2. “Municipal department” means every City department, agency, division, commission, council, committee, board, other body, or person established by charter, authority of an ordinance, executive order or City Council order.
3. “City employee” means any person employed by a municipal department or the municipality.
4. “Contact information” means home address, work address, telephone number, electronic mail address, social media contact information, or any other means of contacting an individual.
5. “Federal agency” means the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency and any other federal agency engaged in immigrant enforcement operations, including any successor agency charged with the enforcement of federal immigration laws.
6. “Immigration enforcement operation” means any operation that has as its main objective the identification or apprehension of a person or persons: 1) in order to subject them to civil immigration detention, removal or deportation proceedings, and/or removal or deportation from the United States; or 2) to criminally prosecute a person or persons for offenses related to immigration status, including but not limited to violations of Sections 1253, 1301 et seq, 1304(e), 1306(a) and (b), 1325, or 1326 of Title 8 of the United States Code, or violations of Sections 1028A or 1546 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

B. Immigration enforcement operations – No participation. No person acting in their capacity as a City employee shall assist or cooperate with, or allow any municipal monies or resources to be used to assist, cooperate with, or facilitate any federal agency in any immigration enforcement operation, except where legally required to do so by state or federal law or court order. This includes but is not limited to:

1. No City employee or department shall grant any federal agency access to any City-owned facility for an immigration enforcement operation.
2. No City employee or department shall support or assist any federal agency in immigration enforcement operations, including requests to (1) provide information (including contact information, custody status, home address, or work address) for the purpose of an immigration enforcement operation except as provided under section B(5) of this Ordinance, (2) investigate or interrogate persons for the purpose of an immigration enforcement operation, (3) establish traffic perimeters for the purpose of immigration enforcement operation, or (4) otherwise be present to assist or support an immigration enforcement operation.
3. No City employee or department may enter into any contract, agreement or arrangement that would—
 - a. Grant any federal immigration enforcement authority to a City department or its employees, including but not limited to agreements created under 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g); or

- b. Authorize the custodial transfer or detention of a person in removal proceedings or for other immigration enforcement operation purposes, including but not limited to Intergovernmental Service Agreements, Intergovernmental Agreements, and ICE riders to Intergovernmental Agreements.
- 4. No City employee or department shall stop, arrest, detain or continue to detain a person for immigration enforcement operation purposes, including pursuant to an immigration detainer; an administrative immigration warrant; any other immigration enforcement document; or information or suspicion that the person is not present legally in the United States, or that the person has committed an immigration violation.
- 5. Unless presented with a valid and properly issued judicial warrant or as part of the Rockland Police Department's investigation of a serious crime such as human trafficking, sex trafficking, drug trafficking, or firearms trafficking, no City department or employee shall:
 - a. Permit ICE or CBP agents to access a person being detained by, or in the custody of, the department;
 - b. Transfer any person into ICE or CBP custody;
 - c. Permit ICE or CBP agents to use agency facilities, information (except as provided under this subsection B(5) of this Ordinance), or equipment, including any electronic databases, for investigative interviews or other investigative purpose or for purposes of executing an immigration enforcement operation; or
 - d. Expend time to respond to immigration-related ICE or CBP inquiries or communicate with ICE or CBP regarding a person's custody status, home address, work address, or other information (except as provided under Section E of this Ordinance).

C. Requesting information prohibited. No City employee or department shall request information from a person about their citizenship or immigration status, unless such inquiry or investigation is required by ordinance, court order, or state or federal law.

D. Information security. No City employee or department shall enter into any contractual agreement or arrangement with a federal agency to provide access to any database operated by a City department where the purpose of such access includes assisting or supporting immigration enforcement operations.

E. Information regarding citizenship or immigration status. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prohibit or restrict any City employee or department from sending to, or receiving from, federal immigration authorities, information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of an individual, or from requesting from federal immigration authorities immigration status information, lawful or unlawful, of any individual, or maintaining or exchanging that information with any other federal, state, or local government entity, pursuant to applications of Sections 1373 and 1644 of Title 8 of the United States Code not in violation of the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

F. Enforcement of State and Local Criminal Laws: Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to limit any City employee from enforcing state and local criminal laws, even if such enforcement takes place at the scene of federal immigration enforcement operations.

Sponsor: Councilor Callahan
 Originator: Councilor Callahan

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| First Reading | <u>11/10/25</u> |
| First Publication | <u>11/20/25</u> |
| Public Hearing | <u>12/8/25</u> |
| Final Passage | <u>12/8/25</u> |
| Second Publication | <u>12/18/25</u> |
| Effective Date: | <u>1/7/26</u> |