



# Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Liza Roberson-Young, Chief Legislative Policy Advisor  
Subject: Resolution 93-R-25, Prohibiting the Use of City of Evanston Property for Federal Civil Immigration Enforcement Operations and Providing Direction on Implementation of the Welcoming City Ordinance  
Date: October 13, 2025

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## Recommended Action:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution 93-R-25, which prohibits the use of City of Evanston property for federal civil immigration enforcement operations and provides direction on the implementation of the Welcoming City Ordinance.

## Council Action:

For Action

## Summary:

Evanston's Welcoming City Ordinance, first enacted in 2016 and most recently updated in January 2025, prohibits the use of City resources in service of federal civil immigration enforcement. This includes City facilities, such as parking lots, vacant lots, garages, and other property owned and controlled by the City.

As part of the current surge in deployment of federal agents to Illinois and the Chicago area, federal immigration enforcement has impermissibly used publicly owned facilities in other communities as staging areas for civil immigration operations. For instance, in Chicago, federal agents have staged enforcement operations in parking lots owned by the City and by Chicago Public Schools, in violation of Chicago's Welcoming City Ordinance. In response, Chicago declared city-owned property to be ICE-free zones. Resolution 93-R-25 similarly establishes ICE-free zones in the event that federal agents attempt to use Evanston-owned property for civil immigration enforcement operations.

The Resolution provides clarity on how City departments and staff should implement the Welcoming City Ordinance as applied to City-owned property, including:

- Prohibiting any City-owned and controlled parking lot, vacant lot, garage, or other City-owned property from being used as a staging area, processing location, operations

base, or other support for civil immigration enforcement. This includes assembling, mobilizing, or deploying vehicles, equipment, materials, or personnel.

- Directing staff to identify City-owned properties that could be used as enforcement operation staging areas and to post signage clearly identifying these properties as City-owned and stating that they may not be used for immigration enforcement purposes.
- Directing staff to, wherever available and appropriate, use physical barriers such as locked gates to limit access to City-owned properties so that they cannot be accessed for immigration enforcement purposes.
- Directing City departments to implement procedures requiring staff to immediately notify their supervisor if they become aware that federal agents are using City-owned property for immigration enforcement purposes, and requiring supervisors to notify the City Manager immediately.
- Directing staff to design and print signage that private property owners or renters may use to delineate non-public areas of their property in which activities related to civil immigration enforcement are restricted. The signs will be available free of charge to private entities, including businesses, medical providers, nonprofit organizations, and faith institutions. The City shall also make this signage available on the City website so that landowners and leaseholders may download and print signs.

Neither the Resolution nor the Welcoming City Ordinance affects the lawful use of City property for purposes unrelated to federal civil immigration enforcement.

Attachments:

[Resolution 93-O-25](#)

93-R-25

**A RESOLUTION**

**PROHIBITING THE USE OF CITY PROPERTY FOR FEDERAL CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, the City of Evanston adopted the Welcoming City Ordinance to limit local involvement in federal immigration enforcement and to ensure all people in Evanston can live with respect, safety, and dignity regardless of immigration or citizenship status; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the State of Illinois passed the TRUST Act, which prohibits state and local law enforcement from participating in federal immigration operations, and the City of Evanston simultaneously strengthened its Welcoming City Ordinance in accordance with the state law; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, the City of Evanston again strengthened the Welcoming City Ordinance to provide new safeguards against increasing threats to Evanston's immigrant communities under the incoming federal administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Welcoming City Ordinance and the TRUST Act prohibit use of City resources for federal civil immigration enforcement, including use of City facilities like parking lots, vacant lots, and garages for federal civil immigration enforcement staging areas, processing locations, or operations bases; and

**WHEREAS**, the Welcoming City Ordinance and the TRUST Act additionally prohibit use of City resources for on-site support in federal civil immigration enforcement operations, including establishing traffic perimeters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Welcoming City Ordinance also directs all City facilities to establish public policies that limit federal civil immigration enforcement operations on their premises to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and state law; and

**WHEREAS**, federal agents recently deployed to Illinois and the Chicago metropolitan area have used publicly owned parking lots, vacant lots, and garages in other communities as staging sites for civil immigration enforcement operations; and

**WHEREAS**, use of City facilities in federal civil immigration enforcement operations would not only violate the Welcoming City Ordinance but would interfere with the City's authority and control over its own resources, property, and personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, such use of City facilities would erode trust between Evanston's immigrant communities and local law enforcement, weakening relationships that are essential to ensuring public safety and effective community policing; and

**WHEREAS**, public safety is best achieved through trust and collaboration between Evanston residents and local government, not through the militarization or deputization of City resources in service of federal civil immigration enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to provide clarity for City-owned facilities on implementation of the Welcoming City Ordinance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**SECTION 1:** That the foregoing recitals are found as fact and incorporated herein by reference.

**SECTION 2:** City-owned facilities shall, in compliance with the Welcoming City Ordinance, implement the following policies and procedures:

## **A. Prohibition on Use of City of Evanston Parking Lots, Vacant Lots, Garages, and Other City-Owned Property**

No City-owned and controlled parking lot, vacant lot, garage, or other City-owned property shall be used as a staging area, processing location, operations base, or other support for civil immigration enforcement. Prohibited uses include but are not limited to assembling, mobilizing, or deploying vehicles, equipment, materials, or personnel for the purpose of carrying out civil immigration enforcement operations.

## **B. Implementation and Enforcement**

1. City departments and agencies shall collaborate to identify City-owned and controlled parking lots, vacant lots, garages, and other City-owned property that could be used as a staging area, processing location, operations base, or other support for civil immigration enforcement.
2. City departments and agencies shall ensure that all such properties have clear signage stating: "This property is owned and controlled by the City of Evanston. It may not be used for civil immigration enforcement, including use as a staging area, processing location, or operations base."
3. Where available and appropriate, city departments and agencies may utilize physical barriers such as locked gates to limit access to City-owned and controlled parking lots, vacant lots, garages, or other property consistent with this Resolution and in conjunction with proper signage.
4. Within two weeks of the adoption of this Resolution, the City shall develop procedures for its departments and agencies to implement this Resolution. These implementing procedures shall provide that any City employee or agent who becomes aware of the attempted or actual use of a City-owned and controlled parking lot, vacant lot, garage, or other property as a staging area, processing location, operations base, or other support for civil immigration enforcement shall immediately report to their supervisor, who shall immediately report to the City Manager or designee.

## **C. Private Property Signage**

The City Manager's Office shall design and print standardized signage that

private landowners and leaseholders may display to delineate the non-public areas of the property in which the landowner or leaseholder wishes to restrict activities related to civil immigration enforcement. The City will make this signage available free of charge to private landowners and leaseholders, including but not limited to businesses, medical providers, nonprofit organizations, and faith institutions, who voluntarily decide to so designate their property consistent with their authority over the property and who voluntarily request such signage from the City. The City shall also make this signage available on the City website so that landowners and leaseholders may download and print signs. Landowners and leaseholders who post this signage do so at their own discretion and assume any legal risk associated therewith.

**D. Scope**

This Resolution does not apply to property that is subject to an existing lease or concession agreement to which the City is a party. This Resolution is not intended to, and shall not be interpreted to, interfere with any such lease or agreement. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed as restricting or interfering with the execution of lawful judicial warrants or the enforcement of criminal law, nor as limiting the rights of any person or entity under state or federal law. This Resolution does not prohibit the lawful use of City-owned and controlled property for purposes other than a staging area, processing location, operations base, or other support for civil immigration enforcement, nor does it restrict any person or entity from carrying out functions unrelated to those purposes on such property.

**SECTION 3:** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

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Daniel Biss, Mayor

Attest:

Approved as to form:

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Stephanie Mendoza, City Clerk

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Alexandra B. Ruggie, Corporation Counsel

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025