

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-33

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SALEM RECOGNIZING THAT A STATE OF EMERGENCY EXISTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY DUE TO THE IMPACTS OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND SETTING FORTH ACTIONS THE CITY SHOULD TAKE TO ADDRESS SUCH IMPACTS.

Whereas, the City of Salem recognizes and values the diverse contributions of all individuals, affirming its commitment to upholding the dignity and respect of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, immigration or refugee status, heritage, culture, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ability, age, housing status, or economic status; and

Whereas, immigrants, foreign-born and refugee populations make up a vital portion of Salem's community and economy, contributing significantly as friends, neighbors, workers, business owners, community and faith leaders, reminding us that immigration is not a threat to be managed but a legacy to be honored and a strength to be protected; and

Whereas, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers have reportedly and allegedly engaged in various types of conduct that infringe on the constitutional rights of members of the Salem community, including but not limited to: arresting and detaining individuals without affording due process rights; refusing to share information about the reason for an individual's arrest or the location where an individual will be detained; routinely wearing masks and refusing to provide identification; and questioning people about their immigration status based on their race, ethnicity, language, accent, or occupation; and

Whereas, multiple US citizens, lawful permanent residents and other individuals legally present in the United States have been wrongfully apprehended, held without judicial warrants or charges, denied access to counsel, and subjected to prolonged detention without due process, reflecting a disturbing pattern of constitutional and human rights violations by immigration enforcement authorities; and

Whereas, the detention of US citizens, lawful permanent residents and other individuals who are legally present in the United States without due process; and

Whereas, keeping families together and children protected and safe is a fundamental value for the City of Salem and mass deportation efforts, especially without due process, threaten the well-being of Salem families and neighborhoods, harm vulnerable populations, cause economic pain and hardship, and interfere with businesses and day-to-day life across the City; and

Whereas, the unnecessary and likely unlawful tactics being used by many federal immigration enforcement authorities have generated widespread fear in the community, which cause our residents to be fearful of leaving their homes to go to work, school, access City services, take public transportation, attend medical appointments, and other necessary daily

activities, and as a result children are denied access to public education, individuals are prevented from seeking necessary healthcare, local businesses are negatively impacted, and residents are discouraged from working with law enforcement agents to report, solve and prevent minor and serious crime; and

Whereas, such actions by federal immigration enforcement authorities institutionalize racial profiling and encourage discrimination; and

Whereas, recent data from the State of Oregon shows a significant impact to immigrant's health and well-being due to fear of being targeted and/or detained; and

Whereas, the foregoing circumstances constitute a significant effect on the health and well-being of the community; and

Whereas, the need for comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level is long overdue; and

Whereas, immigration is a federal responsibility and a comprehensive national approach to solve our broken immigration system would strengthen the economy of our community and of our country; and

Whereas, Salem recognizes the efforts of Members of Oregon's Congressional delegation to promote transparency, accountability, and community safety in the operations of federal law enforcement; and

Whereas, Oregon became the first Sanctuary State in 1987 and has continued to strengthen its sanctuary laws, most recently through the 2021 Sanctuary Promise Act (HB 3265), which reinforces Oregon's commitment to protecting immigrant and refugee communities; and

Whereas, Oregon Revised Statutes 180.805 through 180.820, and 181A.820 through 181A.829 prohibit public bodies from disclosing immigration status without judicial warrant, restrict immigration enforcement activities at public facilities, and prohibit using public resources to enforce federal immigration law except under narrow circumstances; and

Whereas, Salem adopted Council Policy A-9 and Resolution No. 2017-22, declaring that Salem is an Inclusive City within a Sanctuary jurisdiction that supports and is committed to Oregon's Sanctuary laws; and

Whereas, in the wake of federal immigration policies ICE enforcement practices that have generated fear and anxiety in the community, it is necessary for Salem to recognize that our community is in a state of emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF SALEM RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Based on the recitals set forth above and pursuant to Salem Revised Code (SRC) 2.660-2.680, the City Council hereby declares that a state of emergency exists in the city of Salem related to the impacts of federal immigration enforcement.

Section 2. The emergency or threatened conditions include alleged illegal and unconstitutional actions by federal immigration enforcement.

Section 3. The damage or potential damage is: the unnecessary and allegedly unlawful tactics being used by federal immigration enforcement authorities generating widespread fear in the community, which cause our residents to be fearful of leaving their homes to go to work, school, access City services, take public transportation, attend medical appointments, and other necessary daily activities, children being denied access to public education, individuals being prevented from seeking necessary healthcare, negative impacts on local businesses, and residents being distrustful of and discouraged from working with local law enforcement to report, solve and prevent minor and serious crime.

Section 4. The location or geographic area affected is: the city of Salem, encompassing all areas within the city limits.

Section 5. The resources committed and actions initiated by the City shall include:

- a) Installation of signage of non-public spaces within City-owned or occupied facilities that are not accessible to the general public, including offices and other restricted-entry areas.
- b) Coordination with community partners, including immigrant rights advocates, legal services providers, educational institutions, local business owners, neighborhood leaders, and faith leaders, to support programs for communication, outreach, and community support to address the emergency impacts of federal immigration enforcement.
- c) Consider implementation of legally-defensible programs, policies, and resources that protect and support employees and the community in the face of harm and terror caused by ICE's actions.
- d) Provide training to City employees on City and State sanctuary policies and laws, including protocols for employees to follow in the event federal immigration authorities appear at City facilities to include, in addition to the minimum requirements of state law and access to resources for City employees directly affected by federal immigration authority enforcement action.
- e) Regular review programs and services to identify ways to further enhance the goals of this declaration and implement best practices and policies for communities impacted by immigration.
- f) Provide periodic reports to the Council regarding the implementation of this declaration.

Section 6. The City of Salem reaffirms its commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive city and to shielding residents to the best of our ability from fear, discrimination, and unjust enforcement practices. In response to expanding federal immigration actions that threaten civil liberties and community trust, this declaration reiterates the City's commitment to support and comply with Oregon's Sanctuary Promise Laws, its status as an Inclusive and Sanctuary City, and directs that City resources will not be used to enforce federal immigration laws. By adopting this declaration, Salem strengthens its support of Oregon sanctuary laws and City policies, upholds its core values, and supports the well-being of all residents and visitors, especially immigrant and other vulnerable communities.

Section 7. The City Manager is hereby encouraged to take all necessary and proper actions that will help minimize or mitigate the effect of the emergency in a manner consistent with all applicable laws; and

Section 8. The City of Salem unequivocally condemns the misuse of immigration enforcement to detain and deport individuals who are lawfully present in the United States and simply exercising their constitutionally protected rights particularly when such actions are politically motivated or conducted without due process.

Section 9. The City of Salem declares that no matter when someone has joined our community or where they have come from, every person deserves to be free of fear and intimidation and to be treated with dignity and respect.

Section 10. The City of Salem condemns immigration enforcement actions that violate the law or U.S. or Oregon constitutions, targeting our students and families and calls for an immediate end to such actions, which are having a chilling effect throughout our schools, communities and our State.

Section 11. The City of Salem calls on all elected officials, including members of Congress from Oregon, to publicly denounce these unconstitutional actions, demand immediate oversight and transparency from immigration enforcement agencies, and work to ensure the rights of all individuals—regardless of immigration status—are fully protected under the Constitution.

Section 12. The City of Salem respectfully requests that members of Congress from Oregon enact a comprehensive approach to solve our broken immigration system in order to provide a realistic pathway to citizenship for all aspiring Americans.

Section 13. The City of Salem respectfully requests that members of Congress from Oregon enact legislation to protect our immigrant and other vulnerable communities from the unlawful and unnecessary actions being taken by federal agents in the name of immigration enforcement, such as imposing a mask ban or imposing identification requirements.

Section 14. The City of Salem respectfully requests that the State of Oregon provide support and resources to community partners who provide legal aid, rental assistance, relocation assistance

and other forms of support to assist residents who have been impacted by federal immigration enforcement.

Section 15. The City Manager, acting as the City's Emergency Program Manager, is authorized to issue orders and take other necessary steps to implement this declaration as authorized by SRC 2.680, including emergency procurement of goods and services, execution of agreements and other measures necessary for the protection of life, property, and the economy.

Section 16. This resolution is effective immediately upon adoption and will expire on June 30, 2026.

Approved and adopted by the Salem City Council at a regular meeting held on the 1st day of December 2025

ADOPTED by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2025

ATTEST:

City Recorder

Approved by City Attorney: _____

Prepared by: Dan Atchison