



January 23, 2026

**EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE MAYOR
OF THE
CITY OF JERSEY CITY**

PROTECTING JERSEY CITY IMMIGRANTS

WHEREAS Jersey City has a long history as a gateway for immigrants to the United States, reflected in the City's identity as America's "Golden Door," and generations of immigrant families have helped build the City's neighborhoods, economy, culture, and civic life and continue to do so today; and

WHEREAS immigrants are our neighbors and contributors to community life whose successful integration is a shared legal and civic responsibility, and

WHEREAS long-term integration cannot be achieved without legal safeguards that are the foundation for agency, safety, trust, and participation, and

WHEREAS Jersey City is a diverse and welcoming city whose strength depends on the safety, trust, and participation of all residents, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS in 2017 the City previously adopted Executive Order 2017-003 establishing baseline protections governing interactions between City employees and federal immigration authorities; and

WHEREAS the City of Jersey City has maintained policies consistent with constitutional principles and New Jersey law, in order to preserve public safety, protect civil rights, and ensure access to essential municipal services; and

WHEREAS evolving federal policies and practices necessitate updated training, guidance, and protocols to ensure lawful, consistent, and safe municipal responses; and

WHEREAS effective local governance and public safety depend on trust between municipal agencies and the communities they serve, and entanglement in civil immigration enforcement undermines that trust and discourages residents from accessing City services or cooperating with local authorities; and

WHEREAS City employees and law enforcement officers require clear, standardized instruction on appropriate de-escalation, documentation, and referral procedures; and

WHEREAS courts have long recognized the authority of municipalities to control access to and use of their own property and resources, provided that such policies do not obstruct federal law; and



WHEREAS City-owned and City-controlled land, property, spaces, facilities, equipment, and resources exist to serve municipal purposes and the residents of Jersey City, not to facilitate federal civil immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS federal immigration authorities have recently used municipal and publicly owned land, including parking lots, public works yards, and other government facilities, as staging areas, processing sites, and operational bases for civil immigration enforcement in several cities without local authorization; and

WHEREAS the use of City property or resources for immigration enforcement operations risks entangling the City in federal immigration activity, undermining community trust, and diverting municipal resources from local priorities; and

WHEREAS cities across the country have partnered with nonprofit organizations to provide know-your-rights education, legal referrals, and immigration defense support; and

THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in the Mayor of Jersey City by law, I, James Solomon, issue the following Executive Order:

I. ESTABLISHING TRAINING AND OPERATIONAL PROTOCOLS FOR INTERACTIONS WITH FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES

- A. The Business Administrator, in coordination with the Corporation Counsel, shall implement standardized training for all City employees regarding Executive Order 2017-003 that includes protocols for interactions with federal immigration authorities. That training shall include but not be limited to:
1. key provisions of Executive Order 2017-003;
 2. the limits of federal immigration authority, including but not limited to the distinction between judicial warrants and administrative warrants;
 3. protocols for responding to requests by federal immigration authorities to access City property or resources;
 4. protocols for de-escalation and reporting if federal immigration authorities exceed or misstate legal authority;
 5. procedures for responding when a City resident, employee, or member of the public is subject to an immigration detention, arrest, or removal action.



- B. The Business Administrator, in coordination with the Division of Immigrant Affairs, is directed to provide the City's Resident Response Center (RRC) with additional training and know-your-rights information covering the legal rights of individuals regardless of immigration status and ways to connect residents with City Departments that offer services, information, or training.
- C. The Director of the Department of Public Safety (Department) shall issue written guidance for Jersey City law enforcement officers governing encounters with federal immigration authorities. That guidance shall include specific protocols for interactions with federal immigration authorities, including but not limited to:
1. protocols regarding requesting and verifying a lawful judicial warrant prior to assisting any federal immigration authorities;
 2. protocols for response and de-escalation if federal immigration authorities exceed or misstate legal authority;
 3. protocols for interactions with unidentified or masked agents;
 4. protocols for documenting interactions with federal immigration authorities and preserving body-worn camera footage of such interactions; and
 5. protocols for referring individuals affected by interactions with federal immigration authorities to appropriate City and community-based resources.
- D. The Department shall implement annual officer training regarding Executive Order 2017-033 and the written guidance. The training shall be developed in consultation with stakeholders serving or representing immigrant communities. Every officer shall, within three months of their appointment, satisfactorily complete the training course required by this section.
- E. The Department shall require documentation of all encounters between officers and agents of the Department with federal immigration authorities, including but not limited to, documenting the federal immigration authority involved, any officers involved, any other individuals involved, a description of the encounter, a description of any requests made by federal immigration authorities, a description of any assistance provided to federal immigration authorities, date, time, and location. All records relating to this section shall be handled under the usual procedures for receipt of and response to requests pursuant to the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) (N.J.S.A 47:1A-1 et seq.)
- F. The Department shall preserve relevant body-worn camera footage and incident reports related to all such encounters with or concerning federal immigration authorities.



- G. All Department policies will reflect the requirements in Executive Order 2017-003 that officer coordination with federal immigration authorities will be strictly limited to coordination required to maintain public safety.
- H. Each City department shall designate an Immigration Enforcement Point of Contact. All requests from federal immigration authorities shall be routed through that designee and submitted to the Law Department for review prior to any response.
- I. The Law Department, in coordination with the Office of the Mayor, is directed to submit a federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at least annually to obtain records regarding the dates and locations of all enforcement activities in Jersey City, the number of individuals and the reason(s) they were arrested or detained, and policies governing both federal officers' use of badges and other forms of identification as well as masks and other methods that obscure identification.

II. PROHIBITING THE USE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY FOR IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

- A. No parking lot, vacant lot, or garage owned and controlled by the City shall be used as a staging area, processing location, or operations base by federal immigration authorities. "Staging area" means an area that is used to assemble, mobilize, and deploy vehicles, equipment, or materials, and related personnel, for the purpose of carrying out immigration enforcement operations.
- B. The Business Administrator shall identify any and all parking lots, vacant lots, or garages owned and controlled by the City that are likely to be used in the future as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for the purpose of immigration enforcement. City Departments and Agencies shall ensure that all such properties are posted with clear signage stating:
 - 1. "This property is owned and controlled by the City of Jersey City. The City of Jersey City does not authorize this property to be used, and it may not be used, by any federal, state, or local government entity or personnel as a staging area, processing location, operations base, or any other similar use for immigration enforcement operations."
- C. The Business Administrator shall further ensure that, wherever appropriate, physical barriers such as locked gates are used to limit access to any such City-owned and controlled property consistent with this order.



- D. City Departments and Agencies shall develop the procedures necessary to implement this order. These implementing procedures shall provide that any City employee who becomes aware of the attempted or actual use of such a City-owned and controlled property as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for immigration enforcement shall immediately report to their supervisor, who shall immediately report to the Business Administrator, who shall immediately report to the Corporation Counsel.
- E. This order does not apply to property that is subject to an existing lease or concession agreement to which the City is a party.

III. ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS FOR KNOW-YOUR-RIGHTS OUTREACH AND IMMIGRATION LEGAL SUPPORT

- A. The Business Administrator, in consultation with the Division of Immigrant Affairs, shall partner with immigrant-serving nonprofit organizations to conduct know-your-rights outreach for Jersey City residents. Such outreach may include, but is not limited to, multilingual educational materials, community workshops, and digital resources designed to inform residents of their legal rights and available resources.
- B. The City shall identify nonprofit partners to work with to develop and coordinate:
 - 1. legal clinics, including but not limited to virtual clinics, advice and counsel clinics, and pro-se assistance clinics;
 - 2. referral pathways to accredited and trustworthy immigration assistance; and
 - 3. community-based, distributed models of legal assistance.
- C. Such partnerships may also include protocols to assist residents who report that a community member has been detained by federal immigration authorities, including access to know-your-rights information, referral to qualified legal counsel, and coordination with nonprofit service providers.
- D. The City shall explore immigration defense funding and other legal assistance models used by municipalities during prior periods of heightened federal immigration enforcement, and shall identify options for future implementation.
- E. The Business Administrator, in coordination with the Law Department, Division of Immigrant Affairs, and other relevant departments and agencies shall take all steps necessary to implement this Order, including identifying appropriate nonprofit partners and establishing procedures for coordination and oversight.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS



CITY OF JERSEY CITY
OFFICE OF MAYOR JAMES SOLOMON
CITY HALL | 280 GROVE STREET | JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302

- A. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to prevent City employees from complying with a lawful judicial criminal warrant, or to obstruct federal immigration enforcement activities conducted independently of City property, personnel, and resources. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to prohibit or in any way restrict any action where the prohibition or restriction would be contrary to federal law, subpoena, valid court order, or judicial warrant.
- B. If any part of this Executive Order, or the application thereof, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this Order shall not be affected, and this Order shall otherwise continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order, and each of them, are severable.
- C. All city agencies and employees shall fully cooperate with this Executive Order.
- D. This Executive Order shall be kept on file in the Offices of the City Clerk and Business Administrator. It will also be made available to the public upon request.
- E. This Order shall take effect immediately.

Very truly yours,

JAMES SOLOMON
MAYOR

CC: XXXXXX, Business Administrator
Sean J. Gallagher, City Clerk
Sarah Levine, Esq., Corporation Counsel
All Department Directors