

PRESS RELEASE

City of Downey Offers Support and Resources as Federal Immigration Operations Increase

Downey, CA. – June 17, 2025: In response to the federal government's announced increase in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago, the City of Downey Mayor and Councilmembers would like to inform residents about available resources and reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of all community members.

"We understand that many of our residents are feeling anxious, fearful, and even heartbroken by these recent developments," stated Mayor Hector Sosa. "Please know that your concerns are being heard, and your feelings are valid. As your Councilmembers, we share in your empathy for all of our community members, especially those who are most vulnerable during these challenging times."

The City would like to emphasize the critical importance of residents knowing their rights. The City has developed a dedicated webpage with comprehensive information about recent federal enforcement activity, what the City can and cannot do, and links to various resources. This information is available at downeyca.org/yourrights.

For additional resources and information, residents are encouraged to visit the Los Angeles County Office of Immigrant Affairs website at <https://oia.lacounty.gov/>. Individuals searching for a loved one who may be in ICE custody can use the ICE detainee locator at locator.ice.gov.

Understanding that local business are the backbone of our community, the impacts recent events have on local commerce, the City is exploring potential webinars and workshops to assist affected

businesses. Businesses seeking guidance can access the National Immigration Law Center's helpful guide, "What Employers Can Do if Immigration Comes to a Workplace," available at nilc.org.

To dispel any potential misinformation, the City would like to continue to underscore that the Downey Police Department is not involved in any immigration enforcement operations led by ICE. Their focus remains solely on maintaining public safety for all members of the community.

The Mayor and Councilmembers extend their deep appreciation for the community's recent demonstrations of unity. They have observed a remarkable outpouring of concern and advocacy from residents, noting that even amidst uncertainty, Downey stands united. Moving forward, the Mayor and Councilmembers encourage all residents to maintain this spirit of productive engagement and to exercise their First Amendment rights in a manner that respects public and private property. The City's unwavering commitment is to ensure Downey remains a safe and flourishing place for everyone. Let's continue to stand together, united in our shared humanity and dedication to the well-being of every person in our City.

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