



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: January 27, 2026

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: City Commission Meeting
LIAISON: N/A

FROM: Mark Washington, City Manager
Executive Office

SUBJECT: **City Manager's Report: Public Safety Committee support of Know Your Rights campaign engagement for the City's immigrant community**

Today, the Public Safety Committee received a presentation from the Office of Oversight and Public Accountability (OPA) and supported OPA's effort to create awareness and education through the Know Your Rights program, and partner with our immigrant and refugee community, and to investigate ongoing needs to inform people throughout our community about their rights.

Previously, during a regular City Commission meeting in January 2025, I was given the opportunity to clarify the Grand Rapids Police Department's (GRPD) policy regarding foreign nationals and our relationship with federal Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). My January 28, 2025 report to the City Commission is attached and outlines existing protocols that prohibit officers from conducting immigration enforcement against non-criminals.

As the Police Chief has stated both in media interviews and City Commission briefings, the GRPD does not actively participate in or assist ICE with civil immigration enforcement operations. Our stance remains firm: local resources are not used to perform federal immigration duties. However, I do expect our department to cooperate with all law enforcement agencies when serious criminal or violent acts are involved.

This position is well-documented and consistent:

- **Chief's Statement:** [Watch the Chief's interview here](#)
- **Established Policy:** The foreign nationals policy has been in effect since 2019 to ensure safety for all residents ([WZZM13 Report](#))
- **Public Leadership:** The Mayor and I reaffirmed this stance publicly in January 2025 ([FOX17 Coverage](#))

Our Legislative Priority Agenda explicitly opposes unconstitutional state or federal actions, and we remain committed to our DEI values even as federal programs are rolled back. Furthermore, through the [West Michigan Welcome Plan Collaborative](#) – a joint effort with Kent County and 50 other partners – we are focused on maximizing the economic impact of immigrants, ensuring equitable access to services, and maintaining public safety for every member of our community.

I want to be clear: I have no interest in redirecting local resources toward federal issues. Our priority is the safety and well-being of Grand Rapids.