

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND THAT MPD TERMINATE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH IMMIGRATION CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT FOR THE "SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM"

Submitted to the DC Democratic State Committee
by Franklin Garcia and Wylie Chen, DC Democratic Latino Caucus and DC Asian Pacific Islanders Democratic Caucus
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WHEREAS, Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) participation in the Secure Communities program, allows MPD to check the fingerprints of an arrested individual against Department of Homeland Security (DHS) immigration databases.

WHEREAS, Secure Communities is inconsistent with Washington, D.C.'s standing policy regarding collaboration with federal immigration authorities, which states, according to Mayor's Memorandum 84-41, that the District "shall make no inquiry, direct or indirect, about citizenship of US residency status unless federal or District regulations and judicial decisions require that inquiries be made to determine eligibility for benefits." Automatically forwarding fingerprints to an ICE database would constitute an indirect inquiry.

WHEREAS, the program runs directly counter to community policing according to law enforcement experts in the District and nationally. Community members have also testified that years of relationship and trust building would be replaced by fear and a reluctance to report crimes.

WHEREAS, the most recent clarification of MPD's policy issued by Chief Lanier states that "if some of our residents are reluctant to interact with the police, because they fear we are there to enforce civil immigration laws, then all hopes for partnership and cooperation are lost, and what really suffers most is the safety of entire communities." This program will increase distrust between communities and police in the District.

WHEREAS, the District already has policies that check the immigration status of individuals convicted of serious crimes and Secure Communities operates pre-conviction at a high cost to long-standing community policing practices in the District.

WHEREAS, 521 local and national civil rights organizations as well as the Congressional Hispanic Caucus have asked for the complete termination of the program due to the aforementioned fundamental flaws; and

WHEREAS, the role of the federal government is to enforce the national immigration laws and the role of the law enforcement is to preserve public safety

Therefore LET IT BE RESOLVED, that District of Columbia Democratic State Committee stands in strong opposition to The Metropolitan Police Department or any local government agency contracting with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws under the Secure Community Program.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District of Columbia Democratic State Committee supports DC Council introduced legislation to stop the implementation of Secure Community as it harms rather than improves the District's public safety.