

CHAPTER 2025-51

No. 437 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18 ½ “POLICE”, SECTION 18½ - 4 “PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY - POLICE RELATIONS ACT” OF THE PROVIDENCE CODE OF ORDINANCES

Approved November 12, 2025

Be it ordained by the City of Providence:

Section 1. Chapter 18 ½, “Police”, Sec. 18 ½-4 “Providence Community-Police Relations Act” is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 18½-4. Providence Community-Police Relations Act.

(a) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

Electronic data collection means a report produced from computer-aided dispatch (CAD), electronic documentation, or any other police-generated report, in accordance with R.I.G.L. § 31-21.2-5(c), and shall include all the following information:

- (1) The date, time and general location of the stop;
- (2) The race or ethnicity, gender, and approximate age of the individual(s) stopped; provided that the identification of these characteristics shall be based on the observation and perception of the police officer making the stop and the information shall not be requested of the person(s) stopped;
- (3) In the law enforcement officer's own words, the reasonable suspicion and/or probable cause, if such exists, giving rise to the stop;
- (4) Whether a search was executed as a result of the stop;
- (5) The scope of any search conducted;
- (6) Whether the search was conducted pursuant to probable cause and/or reasonable suspicion, and what the probable cause and/or reasonable suspicion prompting the search was in the officer's own words;
- (7) Whether any contraband, including money, was seized in the course of the search, and if so, the nature of the contraband;
- (8) Whether any warning or citation was issued as a result of the stop;
- (9) Whether an arrest was made as a result of either the stop or the search;
- (10) The approximate duration of the stop; and
- (11) The federal identification number of the officer.

Investigatory activity means any traffic stop, pedestrian stop, interview, interrogation, detention, frisk, pat-down, Terry frisk, Terry pat-down, or any search of a person or property.

Law enforcement officer, or police officer means any member of the Providence Police Department, duly sworn and vested with police power.

Limited English Proficient individual means any person whose primary language is not English and/or who does not have the ability to adequately understand or communicate effectively in English.

Qualified interpreter means an individual who is able to interpret simultaneously and consecutively and sight translate from English into a foreign language and from said language into English, in accordance with R.I.G.L. § 8-19-2.

Racial and other forms of discriminatory profiling is defined as the reliance on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, use of a foreign language, gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion, housing status, physical or mental disability, or serious medical condition as a basis, in whole or in part, for suspecting that a person has committed or is about to commit a crime or is about to commit a crime, unless the officer's decision is based on a specific and reliable suspect description as well.

Transgender is an umbrella term that describes individuals whose gender identity is different from their assigned sex at birth.

Federal immigration authority means any officer, employee, or person otherwise paid by or acting as an agent of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement or United States Custom and Border Protection or any division or designee thereof, or any other officer, employee, or person otherwise paid by or acting as an agent of the United States Department of Homeland Security, United States Department of State, or any other federal entity who is charged with immigration enforcement.

Immigration enforcement means and includes any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal civil immigration law and any federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a person's presence in, entry, or reentry to, or employment in, the United States including, but not limited to, violations of Sections, 1324c, 1325, or 1326 of Title 8 of the United States Code (8 U.S.C. §§, 1324, 1325 and 1326).

Judicial warrant means a warrant based on probable cause and issued by a federal judge or a federal magistrate judge that authorizes federal immigration authorities to take into custody the person who is the subject of the warrant.

Schools means any public schools, including district charter schools and mayoral academies; public preschools and early learning programs; city-funded daycare facilities, after-school programs, and childcare centers; and municipal education-related activities or events not otherwise open to the public.

- (b) *Prohibition on racial and other forms of discriminatory profiling.* When conducting any investigatory activity, law enforcement shall not rely on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, use of a foreign language, limited English proficiency, gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion, housing status, physical or mental disability, or serious medical condition as a basis, in whole or in part, for suspecting that a person has committed or is about to commit a crime, unless the officer's decision is based on a specific and reliable suspect description that includes not just these characteristics, but other identifying characteristics or information as well.
- (c) *Documentation.*
- (1) *Electronic data collection report.*
 - a. An officer completing an electronic data collection report shall record the information identified in subsection (a)(3) of this section.
 - b. The Providence Police Department shall establish policies clearly outlining the definition of "stop" and shall require the completion of an electronic data collection report the completion of all stops. Said policies shall be public documents and shall be made available on the police department website. The Providence External Review Authority shall be notified of any changes to this policy and shall have the power to review and make recommendations for improving the policy.
 - c. The subject of a traffic or pedestrian stop shall be able to request and receive, at the police station, a physical copy of the report which includes all of the data elements identified in subsection (a)(3) within seventy-two (72) hours of the stop.
 - d. No later than one (1) year after the passage of this ordinance, it shall be required that, at every stop, the officer shall provide the subject with information regarding the stop including a reference number to access their report, the officer's federal identification number, and the contact information for the Providence External Review Authority.

(2) *Video and audio recording.*

- a. The Providence Police Department shall adopt written policies regarding the use of video and/or audio recording devices such as, but not limited to, dashboard cameras, body cameras, and digital audio recorders, should the department utilize these devices. These policies shall be public records and shall include, without limitation, the following standards:
 1. Standards setting forth when the device is required to be activated and when the device must not be activated.
 2. The subject of a stop shall be advised by the officer that the encounter is being recorded when practicable and consistent with ensuring officer safety and the safety of others.
 3. A chain of custody record of the recordings shall be maintained.
 4. Once a video/audio recording of a stop has been preserved by the police department for further investigation beyond the minimum retention period established by policy, the subject of said stop shall be notified by the police department of this action and shall be informed that they, and or their legal counsel, shall have the right to request to view and listen to the recording involving them at a reasonable time and location within ten (10) business days of the request provided that such notification does not adversely impact imminent law enforcement action.
 5. The policy shall establish a minimum period of retention for such recordings of no less than sixty (60) days, and procedures to ensure that the recording equipment is in proper working order, and shall bar the destruction of any recording related to an incident that is the subject of a pending complaint, misconduct investigation or civil or criminal proceeding. Such recordings shall be retained for a minimum of ten (10) days after the final resolution of such investigation or proceeding, including the time for any appeal;
 6. The policy shall explicitly prohibit any violation of these requirements, including any attempts to disengage or tamper with the video/audio surveillance equipment or to otherwise fail to record stops as specified in the policy;
- b. While on duty and in interactions with the public, police shall be prohibited from using personal audio or video recording devices. Only devices subject to the policy outlined above shall be permitted.
- c. Police shall not interfere with, harass, demand identification from, or otherwise intimidate members of the public making video or audio recordings of police activity in any place the individual who is recording has a legal right to be present. Law enforcement officers shall not intentionally block or obstruct cameras or other recording devices. Law enforcement officers shall not damage or destroy recording devices or cameras, and deleting and/or altering recordings or photographs under any circumstances shall be prohibited. However, nothing contained within this section shall limit the ability of an officer to take appropriate action, if the actions of those recording interfere with the officer's official duties or with the safety of the officer or others.

(d) *Traffic stops.*

- (1) Prior to asking the subject of a vehicle stop for their license, a law enforcement officer must, when practicable and consistent with ensuring officer safety or the safety of others, describe to the subject the suspected violation that prompted the stop.
- (2) No operator of a motor vehicle shall be requested to provide any documentation or identification other than a driver's license or a form of identification listed in subsection (f)(7), motor vehicle registration, and/or proof of insurance when the motor vehicle has been stopped solely for a traffic violation, unless there exists reasonable suspicion and/or probable cause of criminal activity, or the operator has failed to produce a valid driver's license, or the particular type of vehicle stopped requires other types of documentation specified under R.I.G.L. Tit. 31 or under Federal Law.

- (3) No passenger of a motor vehicle shall be requested to provide identification or any other documentation by a law enforcement officer when the motor vehicle has been stopped solely for a traffic violation, unless there exists reasonable suspicion and/or probable cause of criminal activity.
 - (4) Unless there exists reasonable suspicion and/or probable cause of criminal activity, no motor vehicle stopped for a traffic violation shall be detained beyond the time needed to address the violation.
 - (5) When an individual is cited for driving without a valid license under R.I.G.L. § 31-11-18-18.1 and this constitutes the only criminal charge resulting from the traffic stop, the individual may be issued a court summons but may not be arrested, provided that the individual can show identification including alternative forms of identification as described in subsection (f)(7). However, in accordance with R.I.G.L. § 31-11-18.1(a) nothing in this section shall prohibit the arrest of individuals cited for driving when their license to operate is suspended, revoked, or cancelled for:
 - a. Operating under the influence of a narcotic drug or intoxicating liquor;
 - b. Refusing to submit to a chemical test; reckless driving;
 - c. Manslaughter from the operation of a motor vehicle or operating so as to endanger resulting in death; or
 - d. Three (3) moving violations within a one-year period.
- (e) *Searches.*
- (1) Any individual requested to consent to a search by a law enforcement officer of their motor vehicle, person, or belongings shall be informed by the officer of their right to refuse consent to the search. An individual's choice not to consent to a search shall not be deemed reasonable suspicion to conduct a search.
 - (2) When practicable and consistent with ensuring officer safety or the safety of others, searches shall be performed by an officer of the same gender identity as the individual being searched. If an officer of the individual's gender identity is not present at the time, one (1) will be called to the scene as soon as possible so as not to unnecessarily delay the time required to perform the search. Individuals who identify as transgender or gender non-conforming have the right to indicate their preference to be searched by either a male or female officer. If the individual's gender request can be reasonably and expeditiously accommodated without risk to officer safety, the request should be granted. The Providence Police Department shall develop and maintain policies and protocols for how officers shall conduct searches of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Said policies shall be public documents, available on the police department website, and shall be subject to review by the Providence External Review Authority.
- (f) *Surveillance and privacy.*
- (1) Providence Police Department shall not engage in targeted electronic surveillance to collect or retain information about the lawful activities of targeted individuals or groups without reasonable suspicion that such activities relate to criminal activity or a judicial warrant specific to the time, place, and target of such surveillance.
 - (2) Providence Police Department shall not use Real Time Crime Center technology or Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology, data, and/or footage, or other similar technology, to enforce, comply, or assist with federal immigration enforcement, or collect or retain information regarding a person's demographic identity, such as race and/or ethnicity, unless presented with a judicial warrant.
 - (3) Any current or future external agency granted permission to use or review Real Time Crime Center data, ALPR footage, or other similar technology data and/or footage, collected in Providence must agree, through a formal written agreement, to the provisions within this chapter. For external agencies who do not sign such agreements, permission to access data in Providence is prohibited.
 - (4) Police may not engage in an undercover capacity with groups in non-public places based solely on those groups' participation in First Amendment protected activities.

- (5) Police may not consider an individual's lack of proof of identification or failure to respond to a request for identifying information as probable cause or reasonable suspicion of criminal activity, unless the police have a lawful reason to require identification. Police also cannot consider an individual's lack of proof of identification as reason to seek help from federal immigration authorities to confirm an identity document.
- (6) When attempting to determine the identity of a person appearing to be under eighteen (18) years of age, police or their representatives must accept any statement of that youth that they do not have any form of identification in their possession and may not repeat a request for the same form of identification once a juvenile has stated that they do not have that form of identification.
- (7) Police may not photograph individuals confirmed to be under eighteen (18) years of age or, in the event that age identification cannot be confirmed, individuals who appear to be under eighteen (18) years of age, in accordance with subsection (f)(4), except:
- a. As part of formal booking procedures;
 - b. To document evidence of a crime;
 - c. When there is reasonable suspicion and/or probable cause to believe that the juvenile is engaged in criminal activity;
 - d. Pursuant to a court order;
 - c. During large scale public events;
 - d. Via video or audio recording equipment used in compliance with subsection (c)(2); or
 - e. For the specific purpose of documenting injury sustained by the juvenile.

However any photographs taken of juveniles shall be destroyed within ninety (90) days, unless otherwise prohibited by law, or unless a specific investigation pertaining to the juvenile remains open or specific charges against the juvenile have been filed and a case remains pending against the juvenile.

- (8) Police may not inquire about an individual's immigration status or national origin.
- (9) Any valid identification issued by a foreign government including but not limited to consular identification, foreign driver's license, or passport, shall be considered acceptable identification to the same extent as identification issued by a domestic government agency. Other acceptable forms of identification include a valid student ID or other valid forms of identification that include an individual's name, photograph, and/or address.
- (10) No police officer shall identify any individual as a member of a gang in any list or database maintained by any law enforcement agency, nor in any reports, memoranda or other document, unless the individual meets the criteria for inclusion on a so-called "gang list" or "gang database." No Police Department official authorized to enter information into the gang database shall identify any individual as a gang member in written notes unless the individual meet the criteria for inclusion on the so-called "gang list" or "gang database. The list of criteria used to determine inclusion on the "gang list" or "gang database" shall be public information, shall be subject to review by the Providence External Review Authority, and shall not include:
- a. Association with other people identified as gang members or any substantially equivalent factor;
 - b. Race;
 - c. Location of domicile; nor
 - d. Location of encounter.

(11) Gang list/database notification.

- a. Any individual shall have the ability to inquire whether he or she has been included on a "gang list" or "gang database." If such disclosure does not adversely impact imminent law enforcement action, the individual shall be informed if he or she is in the database by written notice no later than ten (10) business days after the inquiry is received. Additionally, the written notice shall explain the right to appeal and the process to appeal the individual's inclusion on the "gang list" or "gang database" as prescribed in this ordinance. The fact that an individual inquired about their inclusion on the "gang list" or "gang database" shall not be considered evidence that the individual is a member or associate of a gang, nor shall it be included in the criteria for inclusion on the "gang list" or "gang database."
- b. Prior to adding any individual under eighteen (18) years of age to the "gang list" or "gang database," the Providence Police Department shall provide written notice, pursuant to the aforementioned policies, of the designation and the basis for the designation by notarized letter delivered via certified mail to the person and their parent or guardian, unless such disclosure would adversely impact imminent law enforcement action. Additionally, the written notice shall explain the right to appeal and the process to appeal the individual's inclusion on the "gang list" or "gang database" as prescribed in this section.
- c. The police department shall establish policies governing the handling of the requests and notifications set forth in (f)(9)(i) and (ii), and for ensuring the safety of the individuals notified. Such policies shall be public documents, available on the police department website, and subject to review by the Providence External Review Authority.

(12) Gang list/gang database appeals.

- a. The police department shall establish policies allowing for the administrative removal of individuals from the gang list or gang database in the event that an individual and the police department mutually agree that said individual was added to the gang list or gang database in error). Such policies shall be public documents, available on the police department website, and subject to review by the Providence External Review Authority.
 - b. Upon request, an individual whose name has been included on a gang list or gang database may challenge that designation through a formal appeal to the Providence External Review Authority. A hearing shall be scheduled within thirty (30) days at which the police department shall establish that the inclusion of the challenging individual on the gang list or gang database was consistent with the established police department policy. If a simple majority of the Providence External Review Authority (PERA) finds that the inclusion of the challenging individual on the gang list or gang database was not consistent with established police department policy, the challenging individual shall be removed from the gang list or gang database. Such hearings shall not be open meetings and under no circumstances shall evidence or information related to on-going investigations presented at such hearings be shared with any individual beyond the members of PERA, necessary PERA staff, the appellant, and the appellant's legal counsel.
- (13) In the event that an appeal is not successful, a notation will be made in the file and in any transmission of the information concerning that individual, that the person denies the allegation of gang membership or association. The appellant in an unsuccessful appeal shall not be permitted to appeal again for at least one (1) calendar year.
- (14) No information related to on-going appeals or successfully contested allegations of gang membership or association shall be shared with any third party unless required by law.

- (15) If an individual has no convictions within a two-year period after their name has been placed on the "gang list," and no new evidence meeting the criteria for inclusion on the "gang list" has been found, the name shall be removed and all related records destroyed. A letter confirming that the individual's name has been removed from the gang list shall be sent to the person at their last known address. However, the two-year period shall not include any time the individual spent incarcerated or serving a suspended sentence.
 - (16) Each year, the Providence Police Department shall produce a report providing the total number of individuals whose names are included on the "gang list," with demographic detail including age, race, ethnicity, and gender, and a total of how many of those individuals have challenged their inclusion on the "gang list."
 - (17) Each year, the Providence Police Department shall engage an independent auditor, selected by PERA, the city solicitor, and the commissioner of public safety, to audit the "gang list," identify any errors, and make recommendations for improving the operations and use the "gang list." A full report of the results of the audit shall be provided to the commissioner of public safety, the chief of police, and to PERA for its review. In the auditor's report, the names of individuals on the "gang list" shall not be included and shall, instead, be replaced with unique identifying numbers. The identity of the auditor shall remain confidential.
- (g) *Language access for Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals.*
- (1) The police department shall maintain a language access hotline to connect police officials in the field with qualified interpreters in a timely manner. Officers who wish to question an LEP individual for any reason and are not fluent in a language spoken proficiently by that individual, shall not question that individual without the aid of the aforementioned language access hotline or without a qualified interpreter is present, except in emergency situations. Police shall not use family members, friends or bystanders as interpreters, except when the aforementioned language access hotline is unavailable or in emergency situations and/or for the purposes of explaining to an individual that they are securing an interpreter or the language access hotline.
 - (2) The police department shall establish and maintain policies for the use of the language access hotline, setting standards for determining language fluency among officers, and clearly defining emergency situations. Such policies shall be public documents, available on the police department website, and subject to review by the Providence External Review Authority.
 - (3) All custodial interrogations in police stations or substations involving LEP individuals must be recorded and such recording shall be made available to the interrogated individual and/or their attorneys. Whenever an officer equipped with a body camera conducts a custodial interrogation of an LEP individual in the field, that interrogation shall be recorded. Recordings made pursuant to this subsection shall be made available to the interrogated individuals and/or their attorneys, unless doing so would impede an ongoing investigation.
 - (4) Miranda Warnings, and all other vital written materials, will be available in the five (5) most commonly spoken languages in Providence, according to the most recent Census data. In the case of a language into which forms have not been translated and in the case of illiteracy, forms will be read to a suspect or witness in their primary language using the contracted interpretation services.
 - (5) At each police building with direct public access, signs shall be posted in the five (5) most commonly spoken languages in Providence, according to the most recent Census data, at each public access point or lobby stating that a language access hotline will be provided free of charge to LEP individuals.
 - (6) Police shall not seek interpretation assistance from federal immigration authorities.

(h) *Collaboration with other law enforcement agencies.*

- (1) Any formal agreements addressing cooperation and mutual assistance between Providence Police and other law enforcement agencies shall be deemed public documents, subject to the Access to Public Records Act, R.I.G.L. § 38-2-1 et seq., and posted on the city's website unless it adversely impacts investigatory activities.
- (2) A law enforcement officer shall not detain, arrest, or transport an individual on the basis of a request from another agency or pursuant to an administrative warrant or other similar document, such as a civil immigration warrant entered into the National Criminal Identification Center, after a stop or when the individual is eligible for release from custody, unless the agency has a criminal warrant, issued by a judicial officer, for the individual, or the detention is otherwise legally required.
- (3) Providence Police shall not offer to assist or to comply with requests by other agencies to support or assist in operations conducted for the purpose of enforcing federal civil immigration law, unless presented with a judicial warrant.
- (4) Supporting or assisting operations for the purpose of enforcing federal civil immigration law includes but is not limited to the following:
 - a. To provide information to federal immigration authorities about arrestees or inmates that is not otherwise available to the public, unless presented with a judicial warrant.
 - b. To use City monies, personnel, or resources to assist in the investigation, interrogation, detention, detection, or arrest of persons exclusively for the purpose of immigration enforcement.
 - c. To allow federal immigration authorities access to their non-public premises unless presented with a judicial warrant, naming a specific individual or evidence.
 - d. To grant federal immigration authorities access to any facial recognition technology used, utilized or managed by law enforcement, such as ALPR technology, unless presented with a judicial warrant, naming a specific individual or evidence.
 - e. To exercise federal civil immigration authority under § 287(g) or 103(a)(10), or similar provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act or any similar laws authorizing local enforcement of immigration laws.
 - f. To comply with requests to establish traffic perimeters or otherwise control public areas for the exclusive purpose of assisting or complying with immigration enforcement.
- (5) Providence public schools and courts of the City of Providence shall not grant access to their premises for any federal immigration authority to investigate, detain, apprehend, or arrest any individuals for potential violations of federal immigration laws, unless such federal immigration authority presents a judicial warrant that clearly identifies the individual whom the federal authority seeks to locate, serve, or apprehend.
- (6) Every municipal law enforcement agency, municipal courthouse, municipal jail, municipal prison and public school within the perimeters of Providence shall designate or authorize personnel that shall review the presented judicial warrant and consent to the federal immigration authority's access to the premises.
- (7) No Providence city agency, department, or subdivision thereof shall provide documents, records, or other evidence in response to an administrative subpoena from federal immigration authorities until it has been reviewed and vetted by the city attorney.
- (8) Nothing in this chapter prohibits or restricts any official from sending to, or receiving from federal immigration authorities, information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of an individual pursuant to Sections 1373 and 1644 of Title 8 of the United States Code.

- (9) All joint activities undertaken between Providence Police Department and other law enforcement agencies not governed by formal agreements as covered in this section shall publicly report as soon as practicable upon completion of the operation.
- (10) The Providence Police Department shall abide by the provisions of this ordinance at all times, including when working in collaboration with outside law enforcement agencies.
- (i) *Accountability and enforcement.*
- (1) Generally.
- a. When conducting a stop or search, a police officer must provide their federal identification number.
 - b. Any subject of a stop or search may ask an on-duty law enforcement officer for a business card containing the officer's federal identification number. The officer must comply with the request, when practicable and consistent with ensuring officer safety and the safety of others. Such requests shall not be deemed reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. When in uniform, Providence Police officers must wear their federal identification number on their uniform.
- (2) An individual subjected to any violation of this ordinance, other than a violation of subsection (i)(6), may file a civil action for injunctive and declaratory relief, and compensatory damages in any court of competent jurisdiction, for bringing such action against:
- a. Any governmental body that employs any law enforcement officer who has engaged, is engaging, or continues to engage in violations of any section of this ordinance; and
 - b. Any law enforcement officer who has engaged, is engaging, or continues to engage in knowing and willful violations of any section of this ordinance; and
 - c. The City of Providence as a Municipal Corporation as described under R.I. Gen. Laws §45-15-1.
- (3) An organization incorporated in the State of Rhode Island and that has within its stated purpose the advancement of civil and/or human rights, the well-being of the residents of Providence including its youth, or the promotion of opportunities for disenfranchised or marginalized communities may seek appropriate relief in a civil action for injunctive and declaratory relief, in any court of competent jurisdiction, for any violation of this ordinance, other than a violation of subsection (i)(6), for bringing such an action against:
- a. Any governmental body that employs any law enforcement officer who has engaged, is engaging, or continues to engage in violations of any section of this ordinance; and
 - b. Any law enforcement officer who has engaged, is engaging, or continues to engage in knowing and willful violations of any section of this ordinance.
 - c. The City of Providence as a Municipal Corporation as described under R.I. Gen. Laws §45-15-1.
- (4) Preservation of rights. This section shall be in addition to all rights, procedures, and remedies available under the United States Constitution, Section 1983 of Title 42 of the United States Code, the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and all other federal law, state law, municipal law and all preexisting civil remedies, including monetary damages, created by statute, ordinance, regulation or common law.
- (5) The chief of police shall prepare and make available on the city's website, as well as to the Providence External Review Authority, the city council and the public, a quarterly report commencing with the city's fiscal year containing the following information:
- a. Compilation of the data collected pursuant to subsection (c)(1), providing at a minimum statistical descriptions of individuals stopped, results of the stop, analyzed by direct and cross-tabulation of race, ethnicity, gender, and age (as perceived by the officer initiating the stop).

- b. Maps or other graphic representations providing approximate geographical locations of aggregate stops.
 - c. Complaints received by the office of professional responsibility involving alleged violations of one (1) or more provisions of this section.
 - d. A summary of all pending civil and criminal litigation against the Providence Police Department or any of its employees, or the City of Providence, alleging violations of any provision of this section.
 - e. Copies of any new policies or revisions to existing policies enacted during the report period.
- (6) The Providence External Review Authority, upon review of all data described in subsection (i)(6)(i), may recommend diversionary reinvestments that would, if implemented, reallocate city funding from the Police Department Budget as a whole, and from the funds specifically allocated to the office of public safety commissioner, to municipal recreation, youth programming and employment opportunities.
- a. A written description of these recommendations shall be submitted to the mayor and the city council no later than the last day of January.
 - b. The mayor and or the public safety commissioner shall provide a written response to the recommendations no later than twenty (20) days after receiving them.
 - c. The finance committee of the city council, or any other committee within the city council most responsible for preparing a budget proposal to be considered by the council as a whole, shall review and respond to the recommendations during its budget deliberations. It shall conduct a public hearing at which members of the public may present their responses to the recommendations. For any city department potentially affected by a diversionary reinvestment, the director or their designee must attend the public hearing described in this subsection.
- (7) The Providence External Review Authority shall be authorized to review proposed labor agreements between the City of Providence and any labor union representing sworn officers employed by the city at the time tentative signed agreements are submitted to the city council, and to make recommendations to either or both parties negotiating the labor contract.
- (8) The Providence External Review Authority shall be specifically authorized to accept complaints relating to any violation of the Community Safety Act, as well as complaints about improper or inappropriate use of canines.
- (j) *[Evidence suppression.]* No provision or violation of this ordinance shall be used as an independent basis to suppress evidence in a criminal proceeding.
- (k) *[Funding.]* Appropriate funding shall be made available to implement the provisions of this chapter.
- (l) *Severability.* The provisions of this section shall be severable. If any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this section is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the validity of the remainder of the section and its applicability to any other agency, person or circumstances shall not be affected.
- (m) *[Implementation report.]* No later than six (6) months from the enactment of this section, the commissioner of public safety and the chairperson of PERA, shall issue to the city council a report on the implementation of this section.

(Ord. No. 2017-18, § 1, 6-6-17, eff. 1-1-18)

IN CITY COUNCIL
OCT 16 2025
FIRST READING
READ AND PASSED

Jina L. Mastrosanni
CLERK

IN CITY COUNCIL
NOV 06 2025
FINAL READING
READ AND PASSED

Rachel M. Miller
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT
Jina L. Mastrosanni
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Butt Smith
Mayor
Date: *11/12/2025*

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18 ½
“POLICE”, SECTION 18 ½ - 4 “PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY- POLICE RELATIONS
ACT” OF THE PROVIDENCE CODE OF ORDINANCES
October 6, 2025**

The ACLU of Rhode Island strongly supports the proposed amendments strengthening the Providence Community-Police Relations Act. These changes are not only appropriate and timely, they are essential given the continued and virulent anti-immigrant policies emanating from Washington, D.C. and the current presidential administration.

While the existing ordinance already prohibits Providence police from complying with requests to assist in federal civil immigration enforcement actions, the proposed amendments commendably seek to further define what constitutes “assisting operations”¹ in this context. Specifically, these amendments explicitly prohibit sharing non-public information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials without a judicial warrant or providing them access to non-public city government premises, or using city funds or resources for immigration enforcement purposes, among other prohibited activities. Clarifying what constitutes assistance to ICE is especially important in light of a recent finding by the Providence External Review Authority that Providence police aided ICE in a civil immigration enforcement operation in July 2025, despite the wording of the current ordinance.²

¹ Page 7-8, §(h)(4)(a-f).

² <https://www.providencejournal.com/story/news/crime/2025/08/22/review-authority-providence-police-helped-ice-violating-ordinance/85776909007/>

Among other vital improvements to the existing ordinance, these amendments include prohibitions on the use of “technology, data, and/or footage”³ from both Providence’s Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) and the city’s network of 73 automated license plate readers (ALPRs)⁴ to assist with federal immigration enforcement. As an organization, we have long expressed concern about the intrusive nature of ALPRs and their surveillance capabilities, and the recent introduction of the centralized RTCC only heightens the risk of potential overreach and abuse. The limits this proposal imposes on the sharing of data is of particular importance now since reports across the country have documented how ALPR information has been used by immigration agents to track down individuals. By requiring external agencies to formally agree to the protections in the ordinance before gaining access to ALPR data, the City of Providence will take a meaningful step towards reining in these surveillance tools.

Additionally, we support the amendments in this proposal that would strengthen the remedies associated with violations of this ordinance.⁵ Ensuring individuals have meaningful recourse when their rights are violated, and those that are noncompliant are held responsible, is indispensable for the integrity of this ordinance. In addition to allowing for awards of compensatory damages, the proposal would, just as importantly, allow for organizational rights of action, ensuring that community groups can bring suit on their own behalf or for impacted individuals who may not be able to do so, or be fearful of doing so, on their own. However, to maximize the effectiveness of this provision, we would urge one additional amendment to the proposal: including the possibility of recovering attorneys’ fees upon a successful suit. The

³ Page 4, §(f)(2-3).

⁴ <https://transparency.flocksafety.com/providence-pd-npd-lpr-study-ri>

⁵ Page 8-9, §(i)(2-3).

availability of such an award provides incentive and resources for individuals and organizations to pursue these cases, which might otherwise be financially impossible.

By adopting these amendments, Providence has the opportunity to serve as an example by taking meaningful steps to protect our immigrant community members and neighbors and reaffirming its commitment to safeguarding civil rights. We applaud the sponsors of this proposal for their efforts and look forward to welcoming its enactment into law.

Thank you for considering our views.

Letter in support of City Council's proposed amendments CPRA

To President Rachel Miller and city councilors,

My name is James Vita. I live on Vernon Street in Providence and have lived there for thirteen years. I am writing in support of the proposed amendments being discussed this evening. I have been very disturbed to read news of Providence police cooperating with federal immigration authorities at the same time as our city council has continued to insist that our city does not endorse such cooperation. We should not be providing any aid or support to the forces that are kidnapping our neighbors and terrorizing our communities.

I understand that city authorities have little control over federal agencies. However, we do have control over the Providence police. We have control over how they cooperate with federal agencies. We must exercise that control and keep the Providence police from supporting federal agencies. The city should not only pass strong measures preventing cooperation with immigration authorities, but should also consider whether continued cooperation with endeavors such as federal joint terrorism task forces is in the best interests of our communities.

I urge you to pass tonight's amendments and continue to press forward with more wide-ranging limitations to our city's cooperation with federal law enforcement.

James J. Vita, III

/s/ James J. Vita, III

15 Vernon Street, Providence, RI 02903

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Darcie Dennigan <darciedennigan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:17 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Monday, October 6th council meeting

Dear City Clerk,

I heard that on Monday there's a hearing regarding Providence Police and ICE cooperation. Because I have a conflict and can't attend the meeting, I wanted to send a brief testimony ahead of time.

Briefly, I am a longtime resident of the East Side, and I am proud of the ways that our city has resisted collaborating with ICE so far.

To date, the city council and others have mostly been far-sighted enough to see that immigrants are essential to Providence-- its economy and its spirit. I hope that --

- 1) they ensure that the PPD will continue to be prohibited from complying with directives given from ICE or any federal government agency and that officers who violate the ordinance are punished.
- 2) they take active measures to ensure that ICE is never allowed to enter a Providence school
- 3) they specifically prohibit ANY city official / officer from sending to, or receiving from federal immigration authorities, information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of an individual.

I thank the council for its time and the clerk for delivering this message.

Darcie Dennigan
11 Slater Avenue
Providence, RI 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Steve Castiglioni <baines36@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 5, 2025 11:15 PM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] URGENT MATTER

ATTENTION: Please send to Councilman Espinal, Councilman Vargas, Councilwoman Peterson, Councilwoman Harris

Dear members of the Committee on Ordinances,

As the Committee on Ordinances considers the proposed changes to the Community-Police Relations Act, I would like to express my DEEP AND STRONG OBJECTION to this proposal moving forward to the full City Council.

The provisions related to immigration law enforcement in Community-Police Relations Act is already a terrible idea. The proposal before you today is an absolute abomination. It is:

- 1) an insult to the honor and integrity of the men and women of the Providence Police Department who are sworn to enforce all laws. It is contrary to every instinct of their mind, body, and soul to actively assist other law enforcement agencies in the performance of their duty
- 2) a betrayal of the American people and legal immigrants of Providence, those that work here, and those that visit the city. It rejects federal law.
- 3) a clear message that anyone voting for this disgusting proposal places his/her loyalty with ILLEGAL ALIENS over the laws of the United States of America. One must question where the loyalty of any supporter of this terrible proposal really lies. It is quite troubling.

This very disturbing proposal has no valid and honest purpose. It is clearly and unquestionably designed to limit the ability of federal law enforcement to enforce the law in our city; thereby protecting ILLEGAL ALIENS and obstructing justice. I find it despicable, reprehensible, and totally and wholly unacceptable. I trust you would as well.

I EMPHATICALLY URGE YOU TO STOP THIS PROPOSAL FROM MOVING TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL.

Dr Steven L Castiglioni
Providence

Sent from my iPad

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Shannah Kurland <skurland.esq@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 11:26 AM
To: Mastroianni, Tina
Cc: Rose, June; Ward13
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: CSA Amendments - enforcement section

Good morning, Madam Clerk.

Could I ask that the correspondence below be forwarded to the Council Members and/or added to the testimonies collected by the Ordinance Committee related to the agenda item from the meeting this Monday past, 10/6/25? Thanks so much, and have a great day,

Shannah

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Shannah Kurland <skurland.esq@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 9, 2025 at 11:11 AM
Subject: CSA Amendments - enforcement section
To: Dana, Jeff <Jdana@providenceri.gov>, Nelson, Steve <Snelson@providenceri.gov>, <eschaub@providenceri.gov>

Solicitor Dana (Jeff),

I hope this finds you well. I would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you by phone today or tomorrow regarding the Administration's position on the proposed amendments to the Section 18 1/2 - 4 of the Code of Ordinances, colloquially (still) known as the Community Safety Act, or CSA.

As you are no doubt aware, the Mayor's office has been publically describing the proposed expansion to the enforcement section of the Ordinance, at (i)(3) in the draft, as if it creates an entirely new private right of action where there was none. ***That is unequivocally false***, as section (i)(2) currently provides such a right to "[a]n individual subjected to any violation of this ordinance" (with an exception for violations of (i)(5), the reporting requirements).

My questions to you then, are as follows:

- (1) Do you as City Solicitor agree that the current text of the Ordinance allows an individual to bring suit under the CSA, *to the extent that any court determines it has jurisdiction*?
- (2) Do you agree that civil claims have in fact already been brought under the Ordinance at least twice? (*PrYSM v. Elorza, Jordan et al. v. Aspinall et al.*)?
- (3) Do you agree that in the two matters referenced *supra* at (2), the City *never raised a challenge related to jurisdiction* other than a Motion to Dismiss in *PrYSM* and that the City's Motion to Dismiss in *PrYSM* only challenged organization standing, and not the underlying right to sue for an individual?
- (4) Are you sure that in spite of decades of established caselaw, you want your client publicly and categorically stating that the Superior Court can not hear claims arising from a municipal ordinance that includes an explicit private right of action? See *e.g. Clements v. Tashjoin*, 92 R.I. 308, 313-14.

If it's more convenient for you to simply answer my four questions in writing via email, that's fine. I would of course be happy to discuss this by phone if that is more productive. But given the long weekend and the level

of misrepresentation that has already come out of the Mayor's office, I would like to get these questions resolved before the close of business tomorrow (Friday).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critically important matter.

Have a blessed day,

Shannah Mary Kurland
439-0518

--

Shannah Kurland, Esq.

This email and any attachments thereto may contain private, confidential, and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, especially if you are an employee or contractor of any government agency and are intercepting this communication in violation of the U.S. Constitution, you may not read, copy, distribute, or use the information in this email or any attachments. Please contact Shannah Kurland at 401.439.0518 immediately and permanently delete the original and any copies of this email and any attachments thereto.

Vos tenés la bala, yo la palabra. La bala muere al detonarse... la palabra vive a replicarse.

- Berta Cáceres

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Aaron Soares <soaresaaron7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:26 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Amend the community safety act

Vote yes to amend the community safety act.

- I demand an end to police/ICE collaboration.

- We know that the Providence Police have been collaborating with ICE, even though it's against local law and even though the Providence Police Chief himself keeps lying to us about it.
- How can we trust a city government that has a police chief who keeps lying to us about his cops working together with ICE?
- **- I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse.** We have seen ICE laying in wait and preying on people who are just attending their court date. We've even seen domestic violence victims getting kidnapped from court by ICE.
 - **If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now.** These protections are stronger than what existed before, but the best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Maia Ashley <maiaashley@bennington.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:34 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Community Safety Act

Hello,

I'm writing in support of Providence's Community Safety Act, preventing courts and police from collaborating with ICE. Immigrants help to make our state great, and ICE has been working unlawfully to detain and deport community members of Rhode Island.

Please consider the community's support in your upcoming vote.

Sincerely,
Maia Ashley

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Sam Radov <samradov@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:43 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End police and ICE collaboration

Hello,

I'm a resident of Ward 13 in the city of Providence and I am writing to show my support for the amendments to the Community Safety Act (Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Act) that will help reduce the collaboration of our local police force and ICE. I also support the measure to bring back remote court hearings so people can attend their hearings safely when only trying to comply with the law. It's abhorrent to see how many families are being wrongfully ripped apart due the very nature of the color of their skin with minimal to zero evidence any crimes have been committed. We can and must do better. Our city is interesting, fun and a great place to live thanks to its diversity. We must do better by our immigrant neighbors and protect them.

Thank you,
Sam Radov

samradov@gmail.com

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Kathleen D. <davegakathleen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:44 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Against PVD Police/Courts Cooperation with ICE

Good Morning City Council,

I am writing to demand that the Providence Police and courts stop working with ICE to protect not only the immigrants of this country, but our Democracy, human rights and conserve humanity that is continuing to be lost in Legal and government run spaces. I am in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE and also believe this should trickle to other cities in Rhode Island as well, to provide a united front for all people.

As someone who was born in Providence and, it is sickening to think that the police and even courts are possibly collaborating to allow raids and work against the immigrants that deserve due process and are doing things the "right way". Even for the immigrants that are just here to have a better life , they deserve to be treated like humans, not criminals or aliens.

What is being done in this country and in states cooperating with ICE, is WRONG. Families are being torn apart, individuals are being told they have no rights when they do and the violence that is happening to innocent people is unacceptable. Nowadays there is also no shortage of individuals dressing up as ICE agents to conduct kidnappings of women, children and everyday American citizens just because they don't look "American enough" thanks to the laws allowing racial profiling based on physical appearance or spoken language by the Supreme Court.

It is crucial for us as a community and as a city to protect the people living in our cities regardless of status, physical appearance or spoken language. We are all living, working and helping build up our cities to be better places and deserve to be protected by law enforcement, not harmed.

I demand an end to police/ICE collaboration. I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside of courthouses. I demand for our City to protect us from police abuse and hold police accountable for when they abuse their power. I demand for the City and the people in charge to actually care for its people.

Thank you,
Kathleen D.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Valerie Reishuk <urbanhiker401@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 10:37 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Amend the Community Safety Act

I am writing in support of the amendments to the Community Safety Act. My name is Valerie Reishuk and I live in Ward 1. John Goncalves is my Council Rep, and he has heard from me on this matter.

Yes, we need to do everything in our power to protect our neighbors from harassment by ICE. It is my fervent hope that America will establish a federal pathway for citizenship in the near future. But until that happens, we must protect all Providence residents from illegal kidnappings.

Please pass these amendments in a fashion that leaves no room for veto. We are one city.

Valerie Reishuk

Mastroianni, Tina

From: tickers-oxbows4a@icloud.com
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 10:50 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End ICE in Providence

-
- To whom it may concern,
-
- **I'm testifying in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE.** As a resident of Providence, I do not condone ICE in my community. We have seen clear evidence that Providence Police is collaborating with ICE, this is unacceptable.
I support an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse. We have seen ICE detain people who are just attending their court date. **If the city wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now.** The best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.
- **Any changes to the law have to include real ways for us to hold the Providence Police accountable if they collaborate with ICE.** Outlawing the police and courts from working with ICE is not enough, we already had a law saying the police couldn't help ICE, yet we saw police collaboration with ICE on camera on Alverson Ave.
- **The proposed changes to the law are a step in the right direction for the safety of all Rhode Islanders.** I urge City Council to listen to its constituents and amend current law.
- Sincerely,
- A concerned resident

Mastroianni, Tina

From: cheryl richards <cherylrichards@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 11:21 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] STOP collaborating with ICE

Demand Providence City Council vote yes to amend the Community Safety Act, forcing police and courts to stop collaborating with ICE

Mastroianni, Tina

From: aubrey planitz <planitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 3:30 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Strengthening the Providence Community-Police Relations Act and Ending ICE Collaboration

Dear City Clerk,

I am submitting this written testimony to demand an end to the Providence Police collaborating with ICE and to express my strong support for the proposed amendments to the Providence Community-Police Relations Act (Sec. 18½-4). These amendments are essential to protect our community from ICE and to hold the Providence Police accountable for violating local law.

For months, community members have organized, spoken out, and shared stories of how ICE has terrorized our neighborhoods and kidnapped people outside Rhode Island courthouses — even targeting survivors of domestic violence. In response, the City Council is now considering amendments that would strengthen the laws against ICE entering courthouses and against Providence Police assisting ICE. These changes are an important step, but they must go further and include real consequences when police violate the law.

As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities. We've seen the Providence Police collaborate with ICE even though it's illegal, and we've watched city leaders deny it despite clear evidence — including video of collaboration on Alverson Avenue. How can we trust a city government whose own police chief lies to the public about working with ICE?

We've also seen repeated examples of police violence and abuse right here in Providence. The brutal assault of young Black and brown residents on West Friendship Street this summer is just one recent example. The community deserves safety, transparency, and accountability — not more excuses.

The Providence External Review Authority (PERA) has already found the police in violation of the Community Safety Act, but PERA currently has no enforcement power. The amendments before the Council must ensure that police who collaborate with ICE or abuse their authority face real consequences.

The truth is, while the City has failed to protect us, the people of Providence have stepped up. We built the Deportation Defense Network — a community of thousands working to keep our neighbors safe from deportation. We are doing the work the City should have been doing all along.

I urge City Council to pass the strongest possible version of these amendments — and to commit to real enforcement, transparency, and accountability. Providence must end all collaboration with ICE and stand on the side of its residents, not with federal agencies that terrorize them.

Sincerely,
Aubrey Planitz
Providence Resident, Ward 10

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Carolyn McLaughlin <carolynjmclaughlin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 4:30 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Community Safety Act Amendments

Dear City Councilmembers,

I am a Providence homeowner and voter in Ward 3 and had the privilege of witnessing my neighbors' and fellow community members' testimonies at the City Council meeting last Monday, 10/6/2025.

I too remain extremely concerned about the presence of ICE in Providence, as well as the blatant coordination from the courts and local law endorsement. I cannot abide by the PPD aiding and abetting ICE in Providence and fully support the proposed amendments to the Community Safety Act. If these amendments pass, it is still only a small step in the right direction for keeping our city safe.

ICE is a danger to ALL people in the United States, regardless of immigration status, and a vote to allow ICE to continue to work with the PPD will absolutely impact my own voting decisions in the next, and subsequent, elections. The Providence Police Department works for us, the people of Providence, and it is outrageous to allow PPD personnel of any sort to aid in the attack of any Providence citizens from ICE.

Please vote in favor of the amendments to the CSA.

With hope and full sincerity,
Carolyn J McLaughlin

36 Boylston Ave.
Providence, RI
02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Carrie <cawunsch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 4:41 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Amendments to the Community Safety Act

Good afternoon,

I am a Providence resident and I'm testifying in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE. I am very fearful about the ways the Providence Police have been collaborating with ICE. I want ICE out of Providence. ICE is terrorizing our community and kidnapping our residents. These amendments are a step in the right direction but are only the beginning of what is needed. I urge the city council to do absolutely everything within their power to get ICE out of our city and protect the rights and safety of our residents.

Thank you,
Caroline Wunsch

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Mary Cepeda <mcelizabeth25@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 5:07 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Community Safety Act (Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Act)

I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse. We have seen ICE laying in wait and preying on people who are just attending their court date. We've even seen domestic violence victims getting kidnapped from court by ICE. **If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now.** These protections are stronger than what existed before, but the best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.

We need the City to protect us from police abuse too. We've seen so many instances of the Providence Police violating our rights and attacking our neighbors. Just this summer, we saw the horrific incident of the Providence Police beating up young Black and brown kids on West Friendship Street. The changes to the ordinance are just a first step to stopping police violence against the people of Providence. **Any changes to the law have to include real ways for us to hold the Providence Police accountable if they collaborate with ICE.** The City and state keep saying that they can't control ICE. If that's the case, then the City needs to make sure that the City and its agencies aren't violating its own laws. How are you going to ensure that? Outlawing the police and courts from working with ICE is not enough – we already had a law saying the police couldn't help ICE, yet we saw police collaboration with ICE on camera on Alverson Ave! And then nothing could be done about it.

There must be real consequences when Providence police abuse their power. None exist in Providence. The civilian oversight board Providence External Review Authority (PERA) found PPD in violation of the CSA for collaborating with ICE, but we all know PERA has no power to hold Providence Police accountable. PERA has zero teeth.

The proposed changes to the law are better than what we have now, a step in protecting city residents, but they're not enough! I urge City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city.

Mary Cepeda
Providence 02906

Mastroianni, Tina

From: EB <saldana.e@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 5:45 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Vote yes on Amendments to CPRA

I wanted to write in support of the amendments to the CPRA outlined here: <https://council.providenceri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Council-CPRA-Amendments.pdf>

These amendments are great and limit federal surveillance and encroachment into our communities.

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Jess Huetteman <jess.huetteman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 6:32 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony - Community Safety Act
Attachments: Testimony - Get ICE out of our communities!.pdf

Good evening,

Attached is my written testimony in support of the proposed amendments to the Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Act.

Sincerely,
Jess Huetteman

Dear Providence City Council Members,

I'm testifying in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE. As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities. I demand an end to police/ICE collaboration.

We know that the Providence Police have been collaborating with ICE, even though it's against local law and even though the Providence Police Chief himself keeps lying to us about it. How can we trust a city government that has a police chief who keeps lying to us about his cops working together with ICE?

I also demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse. We have seen ICE laying in wait and preying on people who are just attending their court date. We've even seen domestic violence victims getting kidnapped from court by ICE. If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now. These protections are stronger than what existed before, but the best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.

We need the City to protect us from police abuse too. We've seen so many instances of the Providence Police violating our rights and attacking our neighbors. Just this summer, we saw the horrific incident of the Providence Police beating up young Black and brown kids on West Friendship Street. The changes to the ordinance are just a first step to stopping police violence against the people of Providence.

Any changes to the law have to include real ways for us to hold the Providence Police accountable if they collaborate with ICE. The City and state keep saying that they can't control ICE. If that's the case, then the City needs to make sure that the City and its agencies aren't violating its own laws. How are you going to ensure that? Outlawing the police and courts from working with ICE is not enough – we already had a law saying the police couldn't help ICE, yet we saw police collaboration with ICE on camera on Alverson Ave! And then nothing could be done about it.

There must be real consequences when Providence police abuse their power. None exist in Providence. The civilian oversight board Providence External Review Authority (PERA) found PPD in violation of the CSA for collaborating with ICE, but we all know PERA has no power to hold Providence Police accountable. PERA has zero teeth.

The proposed changes to the law are better than what we have now, a step in protecting city residents, but they're not enough! I urge City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city.

Sincerely,

Jess Huetteman

19 Pierce St Providence, RI 02909

From: Chelsea Sardoni <chelsardoni95@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 7:26 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TAKE ICE OUT OF OUR COMMUNITY

Dear Providence City Council Members,

I'm testifying in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE. As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities. I demand an end to police/ICE collaboration.

We know that the Providence Police have been collaborating with ICE, even though it's against local law and even though the Providence Police Chief himself keeps lying to us about it. How can we trust a city government that has a police chief who keeps lying to us about his cops working together with ICE?

I also demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse. We have seen ICE laying in wait and preying on people who are just attending their court date. We've even seen domestic violence victims getting kidnapped from court by ICE. If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now. These protections are stronger than what existed before, but the best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.

We need the City to protect us from police abuse too. We've seen so many instances of the Providence Police violating our rights and attacking our neighbors. Just this summer, we saw the horrific incident of the Providence Police beating up young Black and brown kids on West Friendship Street. The changes to the ordinance are just a first step to stopping police violence against the people of Providence.

Any changes to the law have to include real ways for us to hold the Providence Police accountable if they collaborate with ICE. The City and state keep saying that they can't control ICE. If that's the case, then the City needs to make sure that the City and its agencies aren't violating its own laws. How are you going to ensure that? Outlawing the police and courts from working with ICE is not enough " we already had a law saying the police couldn't help ICE, yet we saw police collaboration with ICE on camera on Alverson Ave! And then nothing could be done about it.

There must be real consequences when Providence police abuse their power. None exist in Providence. The civilian oversight board Providence External Review Authority (PERA) found PPD in violation of the CSA for collaborating with ICE, but we all know PERA has no power to hold Providence Police accountable. PERA has zero teeth.

The proposed changes to the law are better than what we have now, a step in protecting city residents, but they're not enough! I urge City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Sardoni
19 Pierce St Providence, RI 02909

--
Chelsea Sardoni
She/Her/Hers
Singer + Music Educator

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Genesis S <sgenesis0819@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:20 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE OUT OF PROVIDENCE

Hi,

I demand an end to the Providence Police Department working with ICE.

What ICE is doing is not right on so many levels. And it's more unfair for PPD to be working alongside them knowing it is unlawful. Our communities were built on the backs of immigrants and we cannot turn our backs on them now when they most need it. Families are being torn apart, children and women are being abused. Power is being abused.

The people demand an end to this immediately.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Kiara Costa <ozmaart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:27 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE OUT OF PROVIDENCE COURTS/ STOP POLICE & ICE COLLABORATION

Providence City Council,

I am writing in support of an amendment to illuminate ICE cooperation in the City of Providence. As a Providence native it is absolutely disgusting to see our municipality and law enforcement be complicit and complacent in the kidnapping of men, women and children. My maternal grandparents came to Providence in the 1970's and settled in the Washington Park area of South Providence. They became business owners and contributed to what South Providence is today. Without immigrants Providence would be nothing. Keep ICE out of our communities or risk the end of Providence's community as a whole!!

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Marelen Salas <marelen.salas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:41 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE out of our neighborhoods!

Dear Members of the Providence City Council,

I'm submitting this testimony to demand an end to the Providence Police Department's collaboration with ICE and to express my strong support for the proposed amendments to the Community Safety Act.

As a resident of Providence, I believe no one in our community should live in fear of being taken by ICE—especially not outside courthouses or with the help of our own police. It's unacceptable that Providence Police have been caught working with ICE, despite existing laws, and that there have been no real consequences. We need laws with real accountability, not just empty words.

These amendments are an important step toward protecting our immigrant neighbors, stopping police abuse, and making sure our city agencies follow the law. I urge the Council to pass these changes and continue working to truly keep our communities safe from ICE and police violence.

We deserve a city that protects all of us. ICE out of Providence!

Thank you,

Marelen Salas

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Corey Fitzgerald <coreymartinfitzgerald@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:42 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony for Community Safety Act Amendments

Hello,

My name is Dr. Corey Martin Fitzgerald, EdD, LMHC and I'm writing to demand an end to the collaboration between Providence Police and ICE. I urge you to support the Community Safety Act amendments before the council today. I also demand that our courts offer virtual hearings, and that real accountability measures be put in place to deter local entities from colluding with ICE.

In recent months, we've witnessed ICE agents in our communities — snatching our neighbors from their homes, from court appearances, from their cars, from local businesses. These are spaces that should be safe — spaces of refuge. Enough is enough.

These practices are inhumane, unconstitutional, and utterly deplorable — and they should not be enabled or funded by our tax dollars.

When we see video proof of Providence Police aiding ICE, and then are met with lies from the Chief of Police and Mayor Smiley, how can we be expected to trust them? How can we believe they are committed to following the law when they are clearly violating the spirit — and possibly the letter — of it?

It's unconscionable to ask us to believe the Providence Police are here to serve and protect when their actions target the most vulnerable among us.

We are demanding that you do the right thing. Do the community-centered thing. Pass these amendments today as a first step — and then go further.

Dr. Fitzgerald, EdD, LMHC

Mastroianni, Tina

From: T'Arra Soares <tlmsoares44@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:46 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End ICE

Hello to this may concern,

I'm testifying in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE. Please it's breaking families apart and hurting people unnecessarily.

Thanks
T'Arra Soares

Sent from my iPhone

Mastroianni, Tina

From: KALI <kaliyang02@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:49 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony against ICE and for Community Safety Amendments

Good Evening City Council,
This is my testimony to show my support with the people of Rhode Island and most importantly my community in Providence. Immigrants make America great! We are a country made from different ethnicities, different cultures, different backgrounds, and so forth. This country was founded on giving freedom and justice FOR ALL! Providence is a community that celebrates diversity with welcoming arms and love. We will not back down from the wrong doings of ICE and we will not support ICE raids or the police and other city officials that help ICE! These raids should not be prioritized over human life and separating families! This is dehumanizing, kidnapping and just wrong! I am in support with the amendments towards the Community Safety Act and I hope as the council for the people, you hear us and feel for your people.

Thank you for your time,
Kali Yang

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Karla White <karlalwhite@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:53 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote YES – End ICE Collaboration and Protect Providence Families

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to demand that Providence end all collaboration with ICE and vote YES to strengthen the Community Safety Act. What ICE is doing is inhumane: breaking up families, using violence, and targeting people who have every right to be here. It's cruel, it's wrong, and it goes against everything this country is supposed to stand for.

Rhode Island's Hispanic and immigrant communities are vital to our city. They work hard, they bring culture, creativity, and connection. Deporting and terrorizing them doesn't just destroy families; it damages our economy and our spirit as a community.

The whole point of America is that it's made up of people from everywhere, a place where all cultures can exist and thrive together. The first settlers came here claiming they wanted freedom from persecution. To now repeat that same cruelty against others is not only shameful, it's a betrayal of that supposed ideal.

Providence must choose humanity over hate. Please vote YES and make our city a true sanctuary, one that protects and uplifts its people, not one that partners with ICE.

Thank you,

Karla White

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Nicole and Eric Boettjer <becomingboettjers@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:01 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE

As a highly educated, diverse New England city we need to stand up this threat to what has historically made our country great. We have rules and laws that everyone is entitled to, and they are clearly not being followed all around the country. Are we going to succumb to being like everyone else while we let these bully's run roughshod over us, or are we going to stand up and protect our friends and neighbors, stand up to tyranny like our ancestors did? I don't want to hear about children being kidnapped and shipped to Virginia from this state too. We need to have rules to curb these agencies, we need to have our police support our community not work against it, we need our government and police to protect us from abuse.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Alejandra De Paz <aadepaz23@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:11 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Demand to End Providence Police Collaboration with ICE

Dear Members of the Providence City Council,

As a resident of Providence, I'm urging you to end all collaboration between the Providence Police Department and ICE. Our community has made it clear that we want ICE out of our neighborhoods, yet we continue to see police working alongside ICE in violation of city law. This not only breaks trust but puts immigrant families in danger. How can we have confidence in a city government whose own police chief continues to deny these violations even when clear evidence exists?

We've seen ICE waiting outside courthouses, targeting people simply trying to attend their hearings—even victims of domestic violence. This is wrong, and our city must take stronger action to protect every member of our community.

Best,

Alex De Paz

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Nicole Brown <nicolelbrownrn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:35 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End All Cooperation Between Providence Police, Courts, and ICE

My name is Nicole, and I am a Rhode Islander, a parent, and a member of this community who believes in justice, compassion, and human dignity.

I am demanding that the Providence Police Department and our local courts immediately stop cooperating with ICE. Every time our local systems collaborate with ICE, they become complicit in the violence and cruelty this agency inflicts. Families are being torn apart, parents taken from children, and people living in fear simply because they sought a better life in the very country that was built by immigrants.

ICE's actions are not about safety — they are about control, racism, and dehumanization. And that is how fascism begins to take hold: by normalizing cruelty and convincing us that some lives matter less than others.

We cannot allow that to happen here in Providence. We cannot let fascism leech into our liberal, welcoming, diverse home state. We must draw the line and stand up for what is right.

Keep ICE away from our people. Keep families together. Protect the values that make Rhode Island who we are — compassionate, bold, and unafraid to stand for justice.

Love is stronger than hate, and we will not be silent while fear and fascism take root in our home.

RESIST,

Nicole Boettjer

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Sibel Vega <sibelvega@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:43 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] END ICE COLLABORATION

Hello,

**As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities.
I demand an end to police/ICE collaboration.**

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Sasha Martinez <sashamartinez78@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:45 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Providence Testimony

Dear Providence City Council,

I was born and raised in Providence - a city full of love and community. In order to keep families together with continued love and togetherness, I am demanding an end to police/ICE collaboration. It's injustice and disheartening to separate families and young children, or anybody at all. I am asking for protection, for listening, for acting - to end this specific collaboration!!

Thank you for your time,
Sasha

-

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Lucia Perluck <lucia.perluck@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:54 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect our most vulnerable! Amend the Community Safety Act!

Dear Providence City Council,

I am writing as a constituent and lifelong resident of Providence to urge you to pass the proposed amendments that will keep ICE away from our courthouses and to keep the Providence Police from collaborating with ICE. As a social worker, I've worked with many of Providence's most vulnerable individuals and families who are currently fearing for their lives and for their stability. I fear that by taking them to their court appointments to address their immigration status which they have all worked very hard to rightfully earn, I am putting them in danger.

As a human being, who has always been proud to be from Providence and who has been shaped by the diversity of its inhabitants, I am asking that you take this small step towards protecting my friends, neighbors, coworkers, and community members who don't deserve to live in the fear that has been caused by this current administration and exacerbated by the police and ICE. I do think that voting for these amendments is the very least that can be done, and there is so much work to do beyond that to ensure that all Providence residents are able to live without fear and remain with their families and communities, but this is a start.

Thank you,
-Lucia Perluck
401.742.3160

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Francis Guerrero <fjguerrero93@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 10:16 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Community Safety Act

As a Rhode Islander who was born and raised in Providence, I implore you to make the correct decision regarding the Community Safety Act. From personal experience I will tell you that I've been in the shoes of not knowing the whereabouts of a loved one that was detained by ICE. They waited for my father as he left work, and the only reason we knew it happened was because his coworker called us. They put him in their car, took him away, and we hadn't heard from him for hours until he finally got the opportunity to call us. This is one of many similar instances.

I demand an end to Police/ICE collaboration. I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people in our courthouses and not allowing them due process. I demand that we hold our police accountable for not protecting our communities.

Thank you

Mastroianni, Tina

From: tables_oasis_0k@icloud.com
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 10:15 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Amendment to Strengthen the Community Safety Act

Dear Providence City Council,

I'm writing to express my strong support for the proposed amendment to strengthen the Community Safety Act and to end any collaboration between the Providence Police Department and ICE.

Our community deserves to feel safe in local courthouses and public spaces without fear of targeting or deportation. Please vote to pass this amendment and ensure Providence continues to be a city that protects and stands by all of its residents.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our community.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Thanadron Phenglee <thanadron.phenglee@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 10:19 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep ICE out.

No more cop collaboration with ICE. Keep ICE out of the community. We keep us safe, not ICE.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Momolu Akoiwala <momoluakoiwala@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 10:27 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Community Safety Act

Good afternoon,

I am emailing the city to please go forward with the community safety act. I feel unsafe as a Providence resident with ICE patrolling and terrorizing the city. We feel unsafe and want safety for our people in our communities. I want ICE out of our communities.

Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Ac

Best

Mastroianni, Tina

From: DREW W <drew@a-feeling.us>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 10:34 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE out of Providence

Dear Providence City Council -

As a resident of Providence, I would like ICE out of our communities. The level of uncertainty it has brought to our everyday lives is unacceptable, as is the witnessing of the harassment of our hardworking local residents. We have seen the Providence Police collaborating in these efforts across the city, moving in a manner that ignores the laws set forth to prevent their support of this federal agency.

Thank you,
Drew White

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Deepica Chaudhary <dchaudhary414@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 10:42 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Urging an End to PPD Collaboration with ICE

Hello,

I am writing to submit my testimony demanding an immediate end to the Providence Police Department's collaboration with ICE and to call for accountability for this unlawful partnership.

It is deeply disheartening and disgraceful to witness ICE tearing families apart and spreading fear among the very communities that make Rhode Island strong, diverse, and compassionate. Reports of ICE agents targeting individuals outside courtrooms—people who are simply trying to follow the law and build better lives—are horrifying and unacceptable.

Immigrants are the heart of our city and the reason our neighborhoods thrive. Providence should stand firmly for justice, humanity, and dignity—not enable agencies that destroy these values. I urge you and city leadership to listen to your constituents and stand on the right side of history by ending any and all collaboration between the Providence Police and ICE.

Protect your neighbors. Keep families together. Be the city that leads with courage and compassion.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the people of Providence.

Sincerely,

Deepica

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Cheavinn <chevjc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 10:56 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testify: No police/ICE collaboration! ICE out of the courts!

Hi,

My name is Cheavinn Chhoeun and I was born and raised in Providence, RI and been living here since 1992. I would like the Providence City Council to pass this amendment in favor of the Community Safety Act. I want ICE out of our communities. I demand an end to Police/ICE collaborations. I also demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside of the courthouse.

Thank you,
Cheavinn Chhoeun

Sent from my iPhone

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Sterling <sterling_sanchez2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 11:32 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protect Our Immigrant Community — Stop Collaboration with ICE

Dear Providence City Council Members,

As someone who comes from an immigrant background, this issue is deeply personal to me. I know how much fear and uncertainty many families live with, even when they've built their lives and contributed so much to this city. Providence is home to people from all over the world, and every one of them deserves to feel safe here.

I strongly support the amendments to the Community Safety Act that would prevent the Providence Police and courts from working with ICE. No one should have to fear being detained or deported simply for going to court, seeking help, or trying to do the right thing. When police cooperate with ICE, it breaks trust in the community and pushes people into the shadows.

Immigrant families are part of the heart of Providence — we work hard, we raise our children here, and we believe in this city. Protecting our community means ensuring that local law enforcement serves the people, not federal immigration enforcement.

Please vote YES on these amendments. Choose compassion, safety, and justice for all residents of Providence — regardless of where they were born.

Thank you for listening and for standing with our immigrant community.

With hope and gratitude,

Sterling Sanchez

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Rachel Oliva <olivarachel44@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 11:36 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Community Safety Act

As a resident of Providence, I want an end to police/ICE collaboration.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: tables_oasis_0k@icloud.com
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 10:15 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Amendment to Strengthen the Community Safety Act

Dear Providence City Council,

I'm writing to express my strong support for the proposed amendment to strengthen the Community Safety Act and to end any collaboration between the Providence Police Department and ICE.

Our community deserves to feel safe in local courthouses and public spaces without fear of targeting or deportation. Please vote to pass this amendment and ensure Providence continues to be a city that protects and stands by all of its residents.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our community.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Daniel Ledesma <dledesmapvd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 12:03 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Greetings,

I demand the city council to pass the amendment stating that our city officials/Providence PD be accountable if they're caught working with ICE. I've seen ICE rip parents away from their children. Parents that work hard, stay out of the way, and pay their taxes. I do not want to see the police that get paid out of my tax dollars go and help the ICE organization rip our communities apart. Think about how those children feel when they have to come home to a missing parent, or parents. What if that was your child, or brother, or sister, niece, nephew, cousin, etc... Coming from a Puerto Rican mother and a Dominican father, I can't even fathom what I would've have done if this happened to me as a child. Not knowing when and if I'll ever see my parents again. There are innocent lives being destroyed, this is pure evil, and it needs to be stopped. The collaboration between Providence Police and ICE needs to end, and the city government needs to stop lying to the community that it's supposed to be protecting. Please take into consideration the livelihood of others and place yourself in their shoes. I hope you all make the right decision.

Sincerely,

Daniel L.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Iris Bucio <irisfrompvd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 12:15 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE out of Providence

To whom it may concern,

I am a native Rhode Islander and throughout my 27 years of life I've come to love this small but beautiful city. It's variety of culture brings life into so many areas that in turn cultivates community. Communities filled with love, laughter, kindness, and mutual respect. As humans we thrive connecting with one another and that need to connect allows us to seek out communities that align with who we are, what we are interested in, and what fulfills us. Community is what keeps us connected. It allows us to come together and share a safe space where we can support and help one another. I experience these communities daily and it makes me feel seen, it makes me feel at home. This is what Providence is to me. It has become my safe haven and I want everyone in this city to feel the same way. However, with the Trump administration, throwing away thousands of our tax dollars to an organization that incites fear and violence, has been allowed to come into our city, my safe haven, and collaborate with our local law enforcement. This is unacceptable. ICE is like a plague, slowly but violently entering into our most vulnerable spaces that lead to social disruption. This disruption of our communities, of our homes, of our safe spaces, has no place here. I demand that this council end the collaboration between ICE and our local law enforcement. I demand this council to end the ICE kidnappings of our neighbors outside the courthouse. I demand this council to stop this terrorizing plague from continuing to spread throughout our communities. Lastly, I demand and expect this council to do everything in their power to protect their residents who seek to continue to cultivate and enrich our city. No matter where they come from, they chose to be here and they deserve to feel safe in the place they call home.

Thank you,
Iris J. Bucio

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Cathy RI <csinri@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 6:31 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Amendments to the Community Safety Act

I attended the hearing last week about proposed amendments to the Community Safety Act. How could one not be moved and convinced of the need for these changes by the testimony?

I urge you to support the changes and to offer virtual court hearings to allow immigrants to safely abide by the law.

Catherine Saunders
Providence

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Popsy Grandpa <popsygrandpa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:17 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] STOP ICE

Im a Latino Rhode Islander with much of my extended family in Providence. I implore you to make the correct decision regarding the Community Safety Act. Im seeing news of families being broken up in some of the most horrific, confusing ways possible, and it is absolutely preventable BY YOU.

I demand an end to Police/ICE collaboration. I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people in our courthouses and not allowing them due process. I demand that we hold our police accountable for not protecting our communities.

Thank you

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Beka Yang <rebekahbyang@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:33 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of amendments to the Community Safety Act

Hello, my name is Beka, I work in Providence, I'm a member of the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and I'm a volunteer with the Deportation Defense Network, along with hundreds of other Rhode Islanders, including many who are also here today.

This rapid response network that so many of us have been building responds to ICE sightings every day as this administration has unleashed terror against our immigrant loved ones. We operate a tip line that people can call about suspected ICE activity in the community. The phone number is 675-1414.

Through this work, we've been able to stop kidnappings from being carried out, chase ICE out of our neighborhoods, and support impacted families. One thing I want to emphasize that our work has made even clearer than before is not only that ICE and the police collaborate, but that they are fundamentally part of the same racist system. We've received calls reporting brutal violence against community members that turned out not to be ICE but another agency. It's no secret to any of us here that the Providence police has a longstanding reputation of brutalizing black and brown community members.

We must stand up to defend each other regardless of which agency of the day is carrying out violence against our people. City officials must make sure that our laws reflect the interests of the people. And we can't stop there, because no change to the law will ever be a substitute for the power of our community when we come together.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Emily Ellinwood <emmalia4@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:44 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY No Police/Ice Collaboration

As a resident of providence, I want ICE out of our courthouses. Bring an end to this taking of loved ones that are just trying to attend their court dates.

As a child of immigrants that were able to receive their US citizenship, it saddens me that others are being taken before they can do the same — especially since so many worked so hard to get here. Keep ICE out of the courts.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Tom B. <tberesfo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:05 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of CSA amendments (10/16 vote)

Dear City Council,

As a Providence resident, I thank you for considering the matter of Providence Police Department collaboration with ICE. This is a black and white issue: there should be no collaboration between these agencies whatsoever. ICE are accountable only to the dictator in the white house, who is utilizing them as an force to rule rather than to govern. Their focus for the moment is our undocumented neighbors. This is in itself unacceptable and disruptive: undocumented people are cherished and productive members of our community. However, we are already witnessing the widening scope of this secret police to antagonize other people--including citizens--that the administration finds undesirable in other city's like D.C., LA, and now, Chicago and Portland, OR. We must prepare ourselves for the eventual illegal invasion of Providence.

The Trump regime and its republican allies have engaged in a cynical scheme of entrapment vis-a-vis our immigrant neighbors. Rather than enabling a legitimate pathway to citizenship, they have deliberately broken our immigration system, then co-opted and redeployed it as a means of wielding power. Nothing speaks to the cruel absurdity of this more than the routine kidnappings occurring as immigrants leave their duly scheduled immigration court appointments at the federal courthouse (4 blocks away from where I work downtown).

Providence Police, on the other hand, are accountable to the residents of Providence, who furnish their charge and their salaries. They work for us. They shall not prioritize aid to a lawless vigilante secret police with no ties or accountability to the community. ICE are an occupying force: both illegal and alien. PPD's legitimate mission, on the other hand is to function as a security force for the residents of our city. I call on them to stand with concerned citizens on the front lines as we demand an end to the ICE terrorization of our city.

At a minimum: there must be real consequences and accountability for actions in support of the occupying ICE paramilitary. I urge you to amend the Community Safety Act / CSA to establish this accountability.

Thank you,

Tom Beresford,
Providence Resident
27 Cole Ave.

--

Tom Beresford

ph. 401.447.5639

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Kelly Ramos <kellyramos0406@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:16 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PLEASE READ

Hello to whom it may concern,

I'm testifying to demand an end to the Providence Police working with ICE and I'm in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE.

ICE workers don't make the community safer, they make it more dangerous, uncomfortable, and they lead with racism.

Thank you.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Clerk, City
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] ice out of our communities!

From: Lindsey Kopech <lkopech@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:22 AM
To: Clerk, City <cityclerk@providenceri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ice out of our communities!

- **As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities!**
- **I demand an end to police/ICE collaboration.**
- We know that the Providence Police have been collaborating with ICE, even though it's against local law and even though the Providence Police Chief himself keeps lying to us about it.
- How can we trust a city government that has a police chief who keeps lying to us about his cops working together with ICE?
- **I also demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse.** We have seen ICE laying in wait and preying on people who are just attending their court date. We've even seen domestic violence victims getting kidnapped from court by ICE.
- **If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now.** These protections are stronger than what existed before, but the best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.
- **We need the City to protect us from police abuse too.** We've seen so many instances of the Providence Police violating our rights and attacking our neighbors. Just this summer, we saw the horrific incident of the Providence Police beating up young black and brown kids on West Friendship Street. The changes to the ordinance are just a first step to stopping police violence against the people of Providence. Let our people live!
- **Any changes to the law have to include real ways for us to hold the Providence Police accountable if they collaborate with ICE.** The City and state keep saying that they can't control ICE. If that's the case, then the City needs to make sure that the City and its agencies aren't violating its own laws. How are you going to ensure that? Outlawing the police and courts from working with ICE is not enough – we already had a law saying the police couldn't help ICE, yet we saw police collaboration with ICE on camera on Alverson Ave! And then nothing could be done about it.
- **There must be real consequences when Providence police abuse their power. None exist in Providence.** The civilian oversight board Providence External Review Authority (PERA) found PPD in violation of the CSA for collaborating with ICE, but we all know PERA has no power to hold Providence Police accountable. PERA has zero teeth.
- **The proposed changes to the law are better than what we have now, a step in protecting city residents, but they're not enough!** I urge City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city.

Thank you,
Lindsey Kopech Da Veiga

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Leiyana Pereira <leiyana.artmgmt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:22 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony

I'm testifying in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE. As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities! We know that the Providence Police have been collaborating with ICE, even though it's against local law and even though the Chief of Police himself keeps lying to us about it. It is unfair and unjust for the force to be abusing their power against us. I pray that the amendment to the community safety act will be testified in our favor.

Leiyana Simone

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Luka Pusic <lukajpusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:48 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Ammending the Community Safety Act

Hi there, I am testifying in support of amending the Community Safety Act to limit our support of ICE. ICE terrorizes communities and deports valued members of the community without due process. They harass citizens and legal residents alike and make our city less safe. Providence Police Department should not support this kidnapping. Thank you

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Merrill Schmidt <merrill994@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:55 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Amendments to the Community Safety Act

Dear Providence City Council,

I'm writing in support of the proposed amendments to the Community Safety Act, which would strengthen protections against Providence Police collaborating with ICE and against ICE targeting people at the courthouses. I am a previous resident of Providence and now reside in Cranston a few blocks from the Providence border (where I could find an affordable apartment for my family). I also work with Providence high school students at a nonprofit organization.

I am very concerned about ICE using illegal tactics to terrorize immigrant families and our broader communities. I believe that what ICE is doing -- such as targeting people after their court hearings and kidnapping people without a judicial warrant-- is bringing a reign of terror intent on destroying our democracy and sense of common humanity. In the face of such terrible abuse and inhuman treatment, we should make every possible effort to stop ICE and protect the Providence community.

The proposed changes to the law are better than what we have now, a step in protecting city residents, but more needs to be done to address this threat. I urge the City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city.

Thanks for your consideration,
Merrill Schmidt

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Audrey Buhain <cabrerabuhain@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 10:26 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE OUT OF PROVIDENCE!

Hello, my name is Audrey Buhain. I've been a Providence resident for nearly a decade, and am also a proud organizer with the Party for Socialism and Liberation and a volunteer with the Deportation Defense Coalition of RI.

I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse. We have seen ICE laying in wait and preying on people who are following "due process" and just attending their court date. We've even seen victims of domestic violence who are here for their proceedings getting kidnapped from court by ICE. Shame!

If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now. These protections are stronger than what existed before in the Community Safety Act, and the best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.

But more importantly, I uplift the people of Providence's collective call to end law enforcement's terror campaign over us all. From ICE to PPD, we want police out of our city.

Police indiscretion is nothing new to the people of Providence - the City Council has been called to discuss the Community Safety Act to begin with. But law enforcement's shameless escalation in targeting the people of Providence, especially our immigrant communities, shows us that discussing these amendments is just a first step -- because we can't rely on someone else, let alone the police, for our communities' safety. I uplift the people of Providence's desire and necessity for real, systemic change where our communities hold the power to keep ourselves safe and defend ourselves from intimidation campaigns like this one.

Since February, the Deportation Defense Coalition has organized a network thousands strong, made up of community members who are actively protecting our people from deportation. The Mayor and PPD chief lied to our faces about prohibiting PPD's collaboration with ICE, and the City Council has made no effective intervention in these conditions. While the city does nothing, we're doing the work the city should be doing.

--
Audrey Buhain (she)

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Hudson Deighan <hudsondeighan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 10:27 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No ICE in Providence!

My name is Hudson Deighan and I am writing to demonstrate my support for the amendment to the Community Safety Act. I demand an END to collaboration between ICE and our law enforcement. We know that our police have been collaborating with the unlawful acts of ICE under direct orders from the Providence Police Chief himself. This is unlawful, unethical and disgusting. On top of the blatant disregard for human rights the police force is lying to the community about their involvement. How are citizens supposed to trust our police, state officials and government that directly ignores human rights, the constitution and our trust. The collaboration between our police and ICE needs to stop right now. There must be real consequences when police abuse their power and act unlawfully. I am embarrassed by the capitulation of our so called "protectors" of our city. Our police swore an oath to protect the people of providence.. not kidnap and abuse them!!!

I will be see you at city hall on Thursday. I beg you to reconnect to your humanity and put an end to this inhumane treatment of the providence community.

- Hudson Deighan, Providence resident.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Sabrina Chaudhary <sabrinachaud@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 10:38 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of CSA Amendments – Ward 1

Dear City Council Members,

As a business owner in Ward 1, I am testifying in strong support of the proposed amendments to the Community Safety Act to ensure that the Providence Police and our courts stop working with ICE. No one in our city should live in fear of being kidnapped outside a courthouse or targeted because of their immigration status. We've seen how ICE collaboration and police abuse have torn families apart and eroded trust between our community and those meant to protect us. These amendments are a critical step toward accountability and safety for all Providence residents.

I urge you to vote yes and take a clear stand against ICE terror and police collaboration in our city.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Chaudhary

Ward 1

Sabrina Chaudhary
stay silent PVD + trade pop-up

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Rachel Rodriguez <rachelrodriguez14@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 10:56 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] COMMUNITY SAFTEY ACT

I'm testifying in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE.

As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities. The community knows that the Providence Police have been collaborating with ICE, even though it's against local law and we know the Providence Police Chief keeps lying to us about it.

How can we trust a city government that has a police chief who keeps lying to us about his cops working together with ICE?

And while **ICE has terrorized our neighborhoods and kidnapped our loved ones**, City Council and the Mayor have stood by, silent and complicit — watching from the sidelines.

We demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside of the courthouse. We are sick and tired of witnessing people who are merely doing their civic duty to attend court dates being preyed upon and kidnapped.

I am a first generation Dominican American born and raised in Providence and

I know many others who share a similar story. We think about how life could have been like for our parents who immigrated here for a better life.

Good, hard working, law abiding people are aggressively being snatched away.

We never fathomed this could happen in our community.

I urge City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Haley Kate <haley.ribb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 11:04 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE out of Providence!

To whom it may concern,

As a RI resident who works in Providence, I'm testifying to demand an end to the Providence Police working with ICE and in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE.

I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse. If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we should offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now.

The proposed changes to the law are better than what we have now, a step in protecting city residents, but they're not enough! I urge City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city.

Thank you,
Haley Como

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Olivia Aparicio <libbyprecio@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 11:05 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO MORE ICE!

Hello,

As a Providence resident, I want ICE out of my community! We know that the Providence Police have been collaborating with ICE, even though its against local law and even through the Providence Chief himself has been lying about it! There is no consequences when enforcement abuses their power and that needs to change! There is no need for ICE there is need for more support in our schools and communities, how about we focus on that. How about we better our special education programs! Help the homeless people on the streets! This is ridiculous and Providence needs to do better!

Sincerely,
Olivia Aparicio

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Daniel Kittridge <dankittridge1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 11:22 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CSA Amendments Testimony

Hello,

I'm writing to testify in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE. As a Providence resident, city employee, and taxpayer in Ward 14, I've been appalled at the attacks on the immigrant community here in our city from ICE and their goon squads. Our immigrant neighbors make this city the vibrant mixing pot that brings people from all around New England to enjoy the diversity of art, food, and culture. So seeing story after story of our neighbors being kidnapped off the street by masked thugs, especially those who have been abducted after coming to the courthouse downtown, trying to use the justice system the right way, has been horrifying. These raids are more reminiscent of Nazi Germany than anything we should want America to be.

Which is why it was particularly disappointing to see the news about Providence Police actively taking part in ICE raids, helping ICE agents break up families and deport people who have just been trying to live their lives and raise their families like the rest of us. If the police are going to be empowered to enforce the laws, that has to start with following the laws that limit their own behavior. We clearly need much stronger controls to prevent PPD from helping ICE attack and devastate our community, and we need to be able to hold them accountable when they break those rules. The proposed changes to the CSA are just a step in that direction, we need much more to make the police accountable to the people of this city and not a force above any public scrutiny. But these amendments are a good place to start.

Regular citizens of this city are already doing the work that a police force that's serious about protecting and serving the people of Providence should be doing, with the deportation defense elite identifying the presence of ICE kidnap squads in our neighborhoods, alerting people, and taking to the streets to show that Providence will defend our neighbors. If PPD isn't going to stand up to the masked bullies abducting people on our streets, the least they can do is not actively help the kidnapers. These amendments, and any reforms that actually create real penalties for breaking them, are a crucial step in the right direction. I strongly urge the City Council to listen to the people of Providence and make this step towards accountability.

Thank you,

Dan Kittridge
27 Burns St, Providence

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Supriya Chaudhary <supriyachaudharyri@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 11:26 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End Police and ICE Collaboration in Providence

Dear Members of the Providence City Council,

ICE has no place in our communities. Providence Police continue to collaborate with ICE, even though it violates local law and despite repeated denials from the Police Chief. How can the public trust a city government that refuses to acknowledge and address these violations? ICE has also been targeting people outside courthouses — even detaining domestic violence survivors who are simply attending hearings. The City must take immediate steps to stop these court kidnappings by expanding virtual court options for anyone who requests them and by ensuring that no city agency or employee assists ICE in harming our community members.

Any changes to city law must include real accountability for the Providence Police when they break these rules. Outlawing collaboration with ICE is not enough — we already have such a law, and it's being ignored. When the Providence External Review Authority (PERA) found the Police Department in violation, nothing happened because PERA has no power to enforce its findings. The City Council must give civilian oversight real authority and ensure there are consequences when police abuse their power. The proposed ordinance changes are a step forward, but much stronger protections are needed to keep Providence residents safe from ICE and police violence.

Sincerely,

Supriya C.

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Angel <alop1983@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 12:29 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Submitting Testimony for the 10/16 City Council Meeting
Attachments: PVD Letter Supporting CSA_10.13.2025.pdf; City Council Hearing 10.14.2025 Submission.pdf

10/14/2025

My name is Angel Lopez. I reside at 41 Dorchester Ave. FL3 in Providence, RI 02909. Below are two documents I have created of which I am formally submitting for the 10/16 City Council Meeting. Please add both documents. The first document is my written testimony titled "PVD Letter Supporting CSA.." and the second is additional material titled "City Council Hearing 10.14.2025 Sub..".

Please confirm receipt of the attached documents and contact me if you have any issues opening them up.

Regards,

Angel Lopez
Providence, RI 20909
tel. (401) 419-8082

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

October 14, 2025

My name is Angel Lopez and I attest my Biometric information is not for sale. I am here before you today as a Product of the Providence Schools System, an AHANA Alumni of Boston College, and a Puertorriqueño resident of Silver Lake. For clarity, AHANA is a non-derogatory term officially used at my Alma Mater as a replacement for the word "minority".

I agree with the reactivation and enforcement for this ordinance and believe it will make Providence a safer place. Positive relationships with the police must work both ways. A police officer who does not show respect to the people they serve does not receive respect or appreciation from the entire community. Cop activities that target youth like "stop and frisk" and two activities mentioned within the Community safety Agreement (i.e. targeted electronic surveillance of lawful activities and the Gang list) have adverse impacts on the growing youth of Providence. Students and residents like me easily perceive those activities as attacks on their communities and build resentment towards the police.

I urge every City Council Member to support the changes of the ordinance and work towards adding a section that prohibits any devices on the sidewalks and telephone poles from sharing information with ICE as well. The City Council confirms the license plate readers do not track people, but what about the other devices installed from years 2017 through today. As of this morning I have found two locations in my neighborhood of Silver Lake, where children are waiting for the school bus near Privately owned surveillance devices. I have made the City Council, the Mayor, and the ProvSchools Transportation department aware of one of these locations. These devices are self-regulated by the owner, who has not shown their face to my community as the occupant of our sidewalks and telephone poles. If Extenet Systems and all other participants of the "Private Public Rights of Way" market in my neighborhood have not shown their faces and have not provided my community with a clear process that ensures accountability, students should not be forced to wait near any surveillance device in this City. Relocate all the bus stops away from these

devices and prohibit the direct or indirect sharing of any data collected by these types of surveillance devices with ICE.

I have also included a diagram I created that expresses some of the profound contributions of immigrants in and around Providence. Collectively, immigrants create more value than any harm described in the propaganda labeling them as criminals.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Sincerely,

Angel Lopez
Residence of Providence, 02909

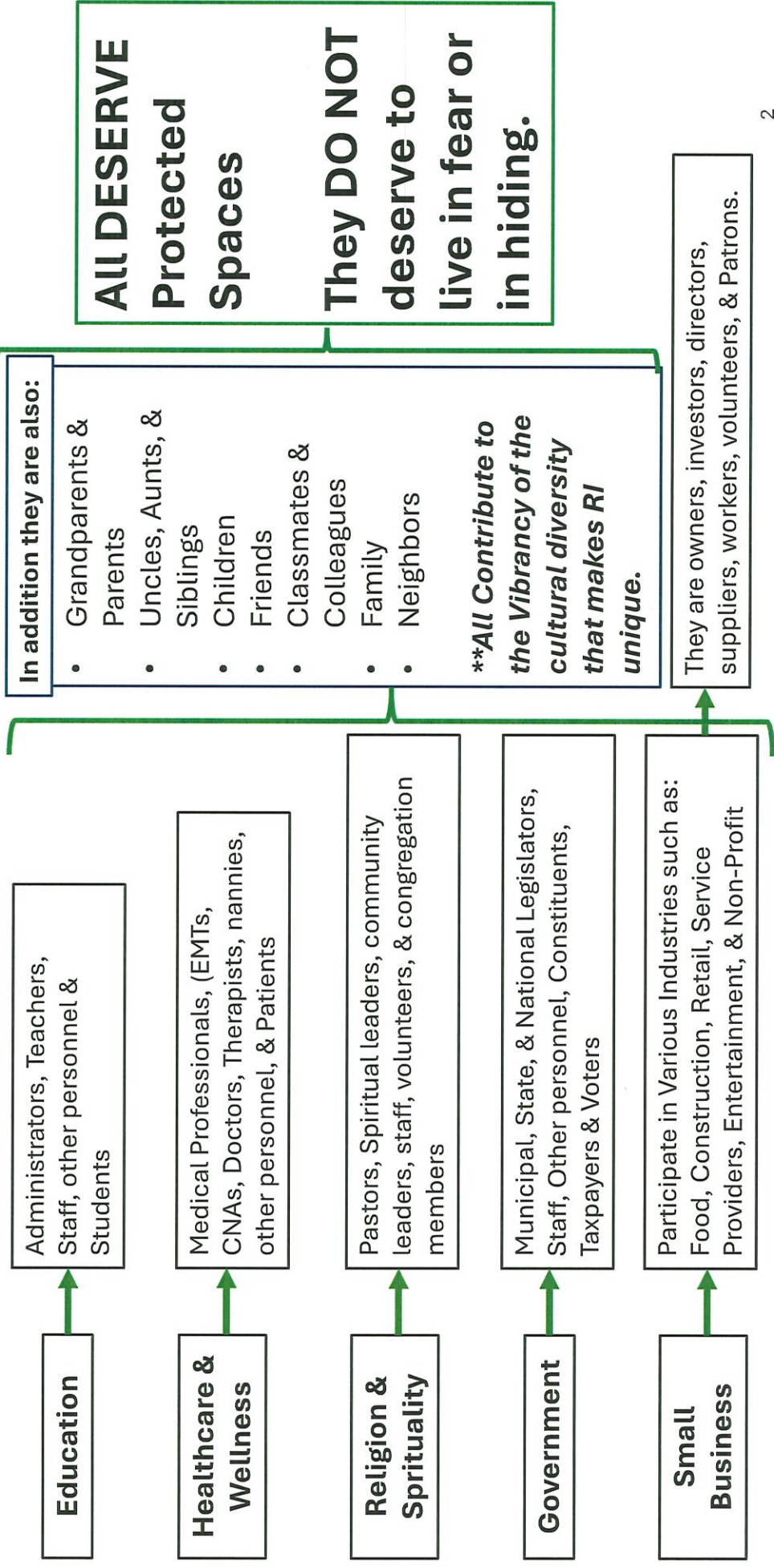
Submitted to the Providence City Clerk on 10/14 in Support of the CSA Ordinance Amendments

Some of the Contributions of Immigrants to Rhode Island

Created to Support the Passage of RI Senate Bill 537 “The Protected
Spaces Act”

By. Angel Lopez

Some of the Contributions of Immigrants to RI



Mastroianni, Tina

From: Maya Lehrer <lehrermaya@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 12:45 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY IN FAVOR — Amended CSA

Dear City Councilors,

My name is Maya, I grew up in Providence, and I'm an organizer with the Deportation Defense Network and the Party for Socialism and Liberation. ICE has been kidnapping our community members from court, despite the previous community safety act. Over the last three months alone, we've recieved reports of at least 20 ICE kidnappings at the courts of Rhode Island, the majority at the Garrahy Complex a few blocks from here.

We believe these kidnappings are only possible due to ICE presence inside the courthouse. For the past four weeks, myself and more than 100 volunteers in the College Hill Outreach Group have been present at the courts every morning monday through friday. We look around the court for ICE cars, which are nowhere in sight. Yet with no warning, several ICE cars appear in a matter of minutes, corner someone in a parking lot or getting in an uber, and take them away. How could this be possible without someone on the inside? How could they know where our community members were going, or when they were going to leave?

The Community Safety Act has claimed to prohibit ICE from entering courts, or sharing information with ICE, but the only way ICE could be kidnapping our community members is precisely if this is happening. We welcome the updates to the community safety act, which will allow us to sue the courts and hold them accountable if they let ICE in. But this is really not enough. Legal battles are extremely expensive, and we know the government local, federal, and national, has the odds stacked in their favor, using our tax dollars against us.

That's why the people have been demanding virtual court proceedings. If our community members don't have to go to court, they don't have to be kidnapped. More than 1500 people, 900 from Rhode Island, have already signed on. City council and the mayor must call on the courts to provide virtual hearings. The infrastructure is already there from COVID. We demand all measures possible to prevent even one more kidnapping at the courts, and we need them now.

I urge you to pass the amended Community Safety Act and continue to pursue stronger measures to prevent our community members from being kidnapped by ICE.

Sincerely,

Maya Lehrer
109 Princeton Ave
Providence, RI 02907

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Tyree Johnson <tyree_johnson@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 12:51 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No Police/ ICE collaboration

Good morning,

I grew up on Broad Street my whole life and it wasn't for the beautiful immigrants that make Providence so beautiful, I would certainly not be who I am. To take time away from public servants to support an extreme and border (ironic) line racist initiative is counterproductive.

ICE and the powers that be are going to do what they do until they dont. In the meantime, I am standing with so many others in protest of NOT using our police to support this collaboration in hopes that Providence will continue to stand on the side that supports what makes our city so great.

Peace.

Tyree "Wooka" Johnson

Tyree_Johnson@icloud.com

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Sean Sierra-Patev <spatev@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 1:09 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Act

I'm writing to voice my support for the amendments to Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Act. Current practices have created fear and dread in our community, forcing those worried about being targeted out of public life and profoundly damaging the social fabric and well-being here. These amendments are far from a solution but they're a step in the right direction at least

Sean Sierra-Patev

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Matthew Lawrence <matthewrlawrence@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 1:20 PM
To: Clerk, City; Rachel Miller for Ward 13
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Community Safety Act written testimony

Dear members of the City Council:

Every day I am horrified by reports on the news about ICE kidnappings in cities and towns across the country. What horrifies me even more is that I know most of these brutal events take place with no media attention whatsoever. As a longtime resident, I firmly believe that the City of Providence needs to amend the Community Safety Act in order take a stand against these illegal, inhumane disappearances of residents who are being violently taken with zero due process, and particularly those who are attending court dates precisely because they are trying to follow the law and do things the way they were told to do them. I saw reports this weekend that ICE agents in Chicago were specifically targeting Catholic masses with Latino congregations. Entire populations are being terrorized! Unless the city of Providence sends a strong message that it will not cooperate, who knows what atrocities might happen here next?

Matthew Lawrence

Mastroianni, Tina

From: shalynn brooks <shayybrooks@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 1:48 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I want ICE out of our communities!

Dear City Council,

I want to start my statement off clear: I know that Providence Police have collaborating with ICE, even though it is against local law and have been lying about it.

I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside of courthouses. Kidnapping, meaning without a warrant, without stating their rights. Kidnapping, meaning stalking and following community members based on the color of their skin without their knowledge, waiting and preying. Even those who are there as domestic violence victims.

I demand the city to offer virtual court proceedings. If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now. These protections are ***crucial for our immigrant community members to stay safe so they do not have to go in person.***

Any changes to the law have to include real ways for us to hold Providence Police accountable if they collaborate with ICE and we need the city to protect us from police abuse too.

The proposed changes to the law is a step in protecting city residents, but they're not enough! We need City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods.

Best,
Shalynn Brooks

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Sofia Gonzalez <gonzalezsofia710@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 1:55 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] STOP ICE IN OUR CITY

- **As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities!**
- **I demand an end to police/ICE collaboration.**
 - - We know that the Providence Police have been collaborating with ICE, even though it's against local law and even though the Providence Police Chief himself keeps lying to us about it.
 - How can we trust a city government that has a police chief who keeps lying to us about his cops working together with ICE?
- **I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse.** We have seen ICE laying in wait and preying on people who are just attending their court date. We've even seen domestic violence victims getting kidnapped from court by ICE.
 - - **If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now.** These protections are stronger than what existed before, but the best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.
- **We need the City to protect us from police abuse too.** We've seen so many instances of the Providence Police violating our rights and attacking our neighbors. Just this summer, we saw the horrific incident of the Providence Police beating up young Black and brown kids on West Friendship Street. The changes to the ordinance are just a first step to stopping police violence against the people of Providence.
- **Any changes to the law have to include real ways for us to hold the Providence Police accountable if they collaborate with ICE.** The City and state keep saying that they can't control ICE. If that's the case, then the City needs to make sure that the City and its agencies aren't violating its own laws. How are you going to ensure that? Outlawing the police and courts from working with ICE is not enough – we already had a law saying the police couldn't help ICE, yet we saw police collaboration with ICE on camera on Alverson Ave! And then nothing could be done about it.
 - - **There must be real consequences when Providence police abuse their power. None exist in Providence.** The civilian oversight board Providence External Review Authority (PERA) found PPD in violation of the CSA for collaborating with ICE, but we all know PERA has no power to hold Providence Police accountable. PERA has zero teeth.
- **The proposed changes to the law are better than what we have now, a step in protecting city residents, but they're not enough!** I urge City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city.

We built the **Deportation Defense Network** because we've learned the hard way: we can't rely on the city to protect us. While **ICE has terrorized our neighborhoods and kidnapped our loved ones**, City Council and the Mayor have stood by, silent and complicit — watching from the sidelines. While city officials like the police

chief and the mayor have lied to our faces. **Since February**, we've organized a **network thousands strong**, made up of community members who are actively protecting our people from deportation. While the city does nothing, we're doing the work **the city should be doing**.

You will be remembered for what you do today!

-sofia

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Molly McWilliams <mcwilliams.molly@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 2:14 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] re: Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Act

There is no reality in which the things ICE is doing (and has already done) is anything less than reprehensible. Secret police deployed against our own citizens is a violation of the Constitution in and of itself, so it seems silly that I'm sending this email today to CONFIRM that I DEEPLY SUPPORT and STRONGLY urge the council to pass these amendments, and then find a way to BAN ICE from operating in this state in ANY capacity, EVER again.

I know the people of the council are as human as the rest of us; when you are regularly witnessing violent crime committed by entities of the government and then ENABLED by entities of the state, you MUST take a stand, or step down. There is no other moral way forward. Look what Chicago has done to protect her citizens. They are standing 10 toes down on the right side of history, and giving us perfect examples at EVERY turn of how to respond to this increasingly-unhinged regime we once called an administration.

Mr. Rogers taught us 30+ years ago to always "look for the helpers" in times of crisis. WE are the helpers now. WE must protect our friends and neighbors. This amendment is a step towards that goal.

When history books call back to this time, what will they say about you?

Thanks in advance for standing up for all of us-

Molly McWilliams

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Sarah Griffith <sarahcelestegriffith@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 2:19 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony in favor of preventing police collaboration with ICE

Hello,

My name is Sarah Griffith. I am a providence resident. I want ICE out of our community and I want and expect our electeds in providence to do everything they can to keep these kidnappers away. We have seen that ICE engages in monstrous, fascist behaviour, including targeting people based on their race. I know that the CSA doesn't currently have the teeth necessary to prevent police collaboration with ICE, and I know that police collaboration with ICE is occurring. That is not acceptable. These people are the threat to public safety. Do everything you can to kick ICE out.

Sarah

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Elisa DG <darosae74@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 2:24 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of Strengthening the Community Safety Act — Stop Providence Police Collaboration with ICE

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed amendments to the Community Safety Act (Providence City Sec. 18½-4 - Providence Community-Police Relations Act). These changes are urgently needed to ensure that the Providence Police and our local courts stop collaborating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. I urge the City Council to vote in favor of these amendments and commit to a Providence that protects all its residents, regardless of immigration status. Our city should be a place where all residents feel safe, moving freely without fear of being targeted by ICE. Please consider this for the safety of our people and the sanity of our community.

Thank you.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: clemintine B <dailylurker7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 2:35 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony

Hello,

I'm testifying in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE. There has to be better practices put in place, I demand that you hear our voices and do what's best for our community.

Best
Community Member

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Hugo Pierre Martin <hugegomartin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 2:38 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ammend the Community Safety Act

To the city council of Providence,

As a RI resident, a Providence resident and an American citizen as well as a member of the voting public I am in favor of any and all amendment that could deter local authorities from colluding with an I.C.E that is clearly out of control and derelict of its lawful duties.

The line is being drawn, clearer everyday, and any and all efforts to do so can clarify the difficult path forward. We cannot wait for law-enforcement to self-direct or develop the perspective needed, a perspective on civilization and democracy itself that must be repeated as many times as possible and as loudly as possible.

Please count me not only as a voice but a future active participant in protest of any local actions that abet the illegal overreach of I.C.E.

Sincerely,

Hugo Martin

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Christian Torre <christian.torre.1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 2:49 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Community Safety Act vote on 10/16

I'm testifying in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE by demanding an explicit and enforceable end to the cooperation between the Providence Police and ICE.

ICE and DHS have been carrying out a campaign of intimidation and fear against people all over the country as part of a racist, xenophobic campaign of terror against our people.

And Providence is neither immune, nor exempt from that.

On July 31st, ICE agents violently detained one of our community members downtown, just a few blocks from here in broad daylight. Two weeks prior, Providence PD and ICE collaborated to kidnap Honduran immigrant Ivan from his home on Alverson Street, in clear violation of the Community Safety Act of 2017 which expressly prohibits the police detaining any persons to assist immigration enforcement agencies. The video footage, eyewitness testimony both corroborate these events. The findings by the Providence External Review Authority a few weeks later came to the same conclusion and have confirmed what the community has already known, the police in Providence, do in fact collaborate with ICE.

Despite the overwhelming evidence, chief of police Oscar Perez continues to lie and deceive the people of the role Providence PD played in the kidnapping that day. He claims that Providence PD were simply called to "keep the peace" and nothing more yet has nothing to say about ICE agents crashing and totalling into two cars to surround Ivan's home. He says they are there to "de-escalate" yet no rebuke condemnation about ICE drawing their weapons at neighbors and children during the assault.

Multiple times a warrant was demanded of the ICE officers, and none was provided. Yet despite this blatant violation of civil liberties and the terrorizing of community members and children, the Providence PD decided that the best way to "keep the peace" and "de-escalate" was to help immigration kidnap Ivan from his home and his family.

It is the responsibility and duty of the city council, who are elected officials of the people, to protect us from police abuse and to punish police when they break the law. The amendments proposed today are a good start, but not nearly enough especially without concrete ways to hold the cops accountable. The current body for that, PERA, is essentially toothless without any meaningful mechanism to hold the police accountable when they violate the law.

For months, the Deportation Defense Network, comprising a network of over a thousand strong all over Providence and beyond have been on the frontlines, leveraging the power of community defense to deter and prevent ICE kidnappings, to stop our neighbors from being kidnapped and to hold families together. If the city council has a fraction of the courage and conviction of the people that have faced ICE time and time again, then you will pass this amendment.

--
Christian Torre
c: [\(917\) 890-1516](tel:9178901516)

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Jason Victoria Oconail <missyoc13@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 3:26 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE out of Providence

To whom it concerns on the City Council,

My name is Jason Victoria Ó Conaill, and I'm a concerned resident of Providence emailing in support of protecting our community from ICE.

Police are marketed as people who protect and serve the community, but we've seen police brutality here in Providence, we've seen Providence police working with ICE, and we've seen the Providence Police Chief and Mayor Smiley lie through their teeth about the police/ICE collaboration. Probably because they know it's against local law, but they don't have the spine to enforce it.

I am asking the city council to fight for us because I believe that you do have the spine that they don't have. Give the option for virtual court proceedings to anyone and everyone, starting immediately. Take away the opportunity for ICE to kidnap our community members at courthouses. And take steps to ensure that the connection is private and secure so that ICE cannot get someone's physical location from the Internet connection.

Also, it was said at the recent city hall meeting that PERA has no teeth; I urge you to fix this problem. Give them the power to suspend any police officer who violates the law, and suspend them without pay, as well as the authority to terminate the employment of police who violate the law they are sworn to uphold, whether it's working with ICE or brutalizing people of color. Give PERA the ability to effectively do its job. In any blue collar profession, if you can't follow rules and do your job, you get fired. Police should be held to that standard as well.

People always say that history will not look kindly on people who do nothing in the face of injustice or even help it along, but don't worry about future historians. Worry about the people who are asking for your help here and now. Don't worry about someone in 100 years thinking, "What was wrong with those people?" Worry about people in the present who are seeing all this unfold on social media thinking, "What is wrong with these people?" I know the city council isn't all-powerful, so even if you can't do everything we're asking, we need you to put pressure on the people who can.

I've read enough history to know that secret police who terrorize and kidnap people with impunity are never the good guys. They're never the people you want to assist. I want to be, not just on the right side of history, but on the right side, period. I urge you to do the same.

Respectfully and sincerely,

Jason Victoria Ó Conaill

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Saraye Metts <sarayemetts18@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 3:33 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Im testifying to demand an end to the Providence police working with ICE. Im also testifying in support of the proposed amendments to PROTECT our community from ICE.

Sent from my iPhone

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Kaden Paulson-Smith <kadenps@proton.me>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 3:39 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 10/16/25: End PVD police and ICE Collaboration
Attachments: 10.14.25 ICE accident.jpg; 10.14.25 PVD police and ice after accident.png

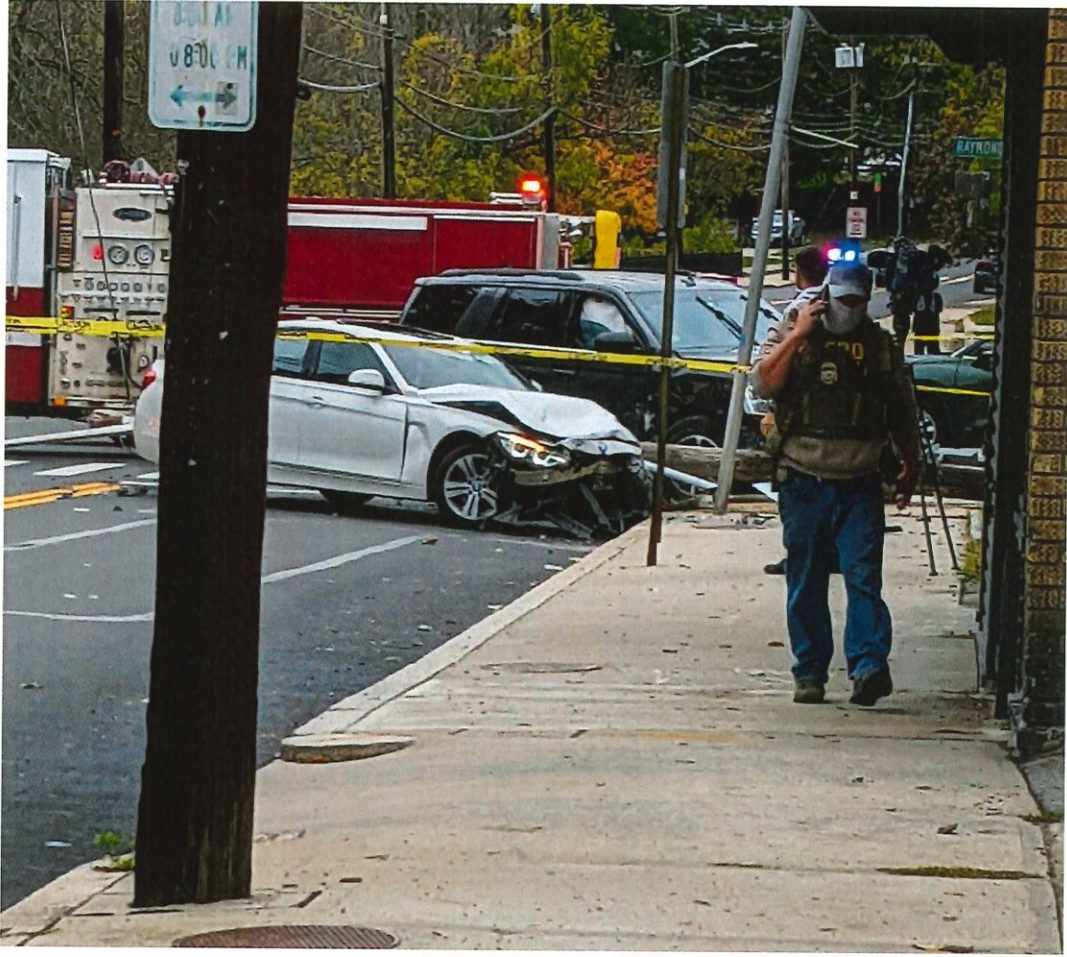
I would like to submit the below testimony for consideration by the Providence City Council in advance of the 10/16/25 session:

Today I saw firsthand how ICE is impacting our community. I witnessed the aftermath of a gut-wrenching accident on Chalkstone Ave that was caused by ICE recklessly chasing our neighbors around and running a red light, completely destroying another car passing through. I saw Providence police officers having multiple conversations with ICE agents pacing around over the next hour. I asked one officer what happened and if everyone was ok. I could not reconcile the completely totaled cars before my eyes with their nonchalant response that there were no injuries. They seemed to downplay the damage, saying, "accidents usually look worse than they usually end up being...like cuts and bruises." My 26-year-old cousin was killed in a car accident on October 15, exactly eight years ago, one week before her wedding. I cannot imagine another family having to go through what we went through. Many of us are realizing that it is not the police-- either local or federal-- that keep us safe in Providence. It is our community that not only responds to harm, but creates the conditions to prevent harm from happening in the first place. What is the purpose of City Council if not to advocate for our community and keep our loved ones safe? How do you want to be remembered by the people of Providence? We call on you to defend us and do everything in your power to banish ICE from Providence and end all police collaborations. We do not need more policing because we do not need more violence in this city, like the horrible destruction we witnessed today. We need accountability. We cannot bear to see one more family torn apart. Be the vote we need to amend the Community Safety Act and make us proud of your courageous leadership in Providence.

Please let me know if there is any additional information I can provide, and thank you for your consideration.

Kaden Smith
Providence resident

Photos attached and enclosed below:





Mastroianni, Tina

From: Jacqueline Goldman <jackiegoldmanri@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 4:15 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on the Providence Community-Police Relations Act
Attachments: Testimony in Support of Changes to the CPRA.pdf

From Jackie Goldman
142 Enfield Ave, Providence, RI 02908

To the members of the Providence City Council.

I urge you to pass the ordinance amending Section 18 1/2 - 4, in order to protect the rights of our immigrant neighbors. We are currently in a moment of deep Constitutional breakdown where the federal government is using masked and violent actors to detain members of our community. These deportations are cruel, unconstitutional, and we as a city need to do everything we can to fight them.

As a member of the Jewish community and the LGBTQIA+, I grew up hearing stories of soldiers coming into people's homes. grabbing them off the street, and shipping them to camps outside of their home countries. What we are seeing today is not at all different. Our neighbors are being taken from their homes, work places, hospitals and the courthouse. They are being sent to prisons not fit for human habitation. We have an opportunity to oppose this.

As a sanctuary city, we have a moral and legal obligation to take steps to protect our neighbors. For all of the talk and rhetoric coming out of the council to defy Trump and his regime of terror, I am seeing little action. This is why I urge you all to support measures to limit collaboration with ICE.

Please vote in support of this ordinance.

--
Jackie Goldman (they/them/theirs)

401-388-0961
JackieGoldmanRI@gmail.com
Follow: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)

From Jackie Goldman
142 Enfield Ave, Providence, RI 02908

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As a member of the Jewish community and the LGBTQIA+, I grew up hearing stories of soldiers coming into people's homes, grabbing them off the street, and shipping them to camps outside of their home countries. What we are seeing today is not at all different. Our neighbors are being taken from their homes, work places, hospitals and the courthouse. They are being sent to prisons not fit for human habitation. We have an opportunity to oppose this.

As a sanctuary city, we have a moral and legal obligation to take steps to protect our neighbors. For all of the talk and rhetoric coming out of the council to defy Trump and his regime of terror, I am seeing little action. This is why I urge you all to support measures to limit collaboration with ICE.

Please vote in support of this ordinance.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Dionitxel Tornez <dionitxeltornez@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 4:16 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of the city of Providence, and I am testifying in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE. Providence is a robust community attracting people with numerous cultural enclaves that contribute to the innovation and economic development of Rhode Island. It is my concern that if these amendments are not implemented, families and communities will be torn apart. The Providence people deserve to drive to and from their homes with the assurance that the Providence Police Department is there to protect them and not hunt them the way ICE has been doing so. Providence children deserve to go to and from school without the fear of coming for to an empty home, or worse, be targeted by the very adults that are meant to protect them. It is of great urgency that I ask for an end to the Providence Police and ICE collaboration.

Sincerely,

Dionitxel Tornez

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Chris Stahl <chris.m.stahl@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 4:35 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] End Ice in Providence

Dear council,

- As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities!
- I demand an end to police/ICE collaboration.
- I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse.

Sent from my iPhone

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Milo Giovanniello <milokgiovanniello@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 4:54 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written testimony in favor of amendments to the Community Safety Act (Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Act)

My name is Milo Giovanniello, and I am a Providence resident. I live at 74 Willow St. I am writing in favor of amendments to the Community Safety Act (Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Act). These amendments would strengthen the laws against ICE coming into the courthouses to kidnap our loved ones, and the laws against the Providence Police helping ICE to attack our people. I have witnessed community members violently grabbed by ICE officials as they left the courthouse, and I know we need stronger protections to keep our beloved community members safe. **If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now.** These protections are stronger than what existed before, but the best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.

Also, the community safety act should be strengthened to protect our community from police violence. We've seen so many instances of the Providence Police violating our rights and attacking our neighbors. Just this summer, we saw the horrific incident of the Providence Police beating up young Black and brown kids on West Friendship Street. The changes to the ordinance are just a first step to stopping police violence against the people of Providence.

The proposed changes to the law are better than what we have now, a step in protecting city residents, but they're not enough! I urge City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city.

Thank you,

Milo

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Jack Lenz <jlenz19@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 5:00 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] amendments to the Community Safety Act (Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Act

My name is Jack Lenz I'm a resident of Providence RI. I'm writing today in support of the amendments to the community safety act. The Providence Police assisting ICE erodes public trust and increases fears people already have when it comes to policing. This leads to individuals being hesitant to report crimes in our communities which makes things more dangerous for everyone. Providence needs to stand strong in upholding the values of the city as a sanctuary city which protects immigrants. We have been told from city officials that PPD will not be collaborating with ICE yet we have seen videos proving that this has been happening which further strains the community's trust. I encourage you all to pass these amendments and keep Providence Residents safe and be honest and transparent about what has been occurring in order to rebuild trust. Thank you.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Linda Daniels <ldanielswrites@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 5:08 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CSA Amendment: Testimony

Testimony in support of the amendment to the Community Safety Act

Dear Council members:

I'm a lifelong resident of Providence, the descendant of immigrants, and a proud member of the Deportation Defense Network. I strongly urge you to support the amendment to the Community Safety Act. I demand an end to the fear and terror unleashed in this city by ICE and ICE collaborators like the Providence Police Department and Mayor Smiley. Masked men in unmarked cars kidnapping immigrants and refugees and placing them in detention centers--or worse, deporting them absent due process--is a moral outrage and must stop now. I'm tired of the lies coming from the mayor and police chief. I'm tired of the reckless disregard of basic human rights. I'm tired of waiting for this city to support every resident's right to live freely. I'm tired of witnessing injustice. The very least you can do is pass this amendment. Please: Do the right thing.

Linda Daniels
491 Eaton Street
Providence, RI

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Rose Frazier <rcfraz37@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 5:54 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep ice off our streets.

As someone who lives in the city, spends time on its streets and in its businesses, I have seen ice cause terrible disruption. I've seen footage of family members being torn from each other's arms, I've seen them put people into the hospital and drag them out as quickly as they could without concern for the person's safety, I've seen people on the streets become less lively and active in the communities that rightfully belong to them. I understand everyone is scared right now, resources are tight and getting tighter but the people ICE is harming present no threat to anyone.

I've seen the police aid and abet ICE as their terror campaign drags on and on. Above all else, this must stop. To allow the people who, our government claims, exist solely for our protection break up families, to decrease the safety of our communities as a whole, and to act against the directives of their governing body, is to admit that they are not here for our protection. Real consequences must follow any officer who helps ICE with their horrific work.

Please, be humane. Keep ICE off our streets.

Thank you,
Rose Frazier

Mastroianni, Tina

From: York, Emma <emma_york@alumni.brown.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 6:14 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Support of the Amendments to the Community Safety Act

Dear Council Members,

I am writing today to urge you to support the amendments to the Community Safety Act (Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Act). These amendments would strengthen the laws against ICE coming into the courthouses to kidnap our loved ones, and the laws against the Providence Police helping ICE to attack our people.

My relationship to the city of Providence began in 2017 when I worked at Breakthrough Providence as a 7th and 8th grade Humanities teacher-in-training and continued when I got my Masters of Arts in Teaching degree from Brown University while completing my practicum at Paul Cuffee Middle School. I returned to Providence in February and joined the West End Deportation Defense Outreach Team and the board of Refugee Youth Solidarity (RYSE), a nonprofit that seeks to foster literacy, confidence, and community among K-12 refugee youth in Rhode Island through hands on, joyful summer learning and leadership development because I understand that **our communities are safer, freer, and more joyful when we respect the right of all people to live in dignity.**

As an educator, I witnessed the ways that police brutality, deportation, and incarceration destabilized my students' families, making it harder for them to learn, bond, and contribute their brilliance to our community. Many immigrants and refugees come to Rhode Island fleeing untenable conditions in their home countries that were caused or exacerbated by U.S. imperialism, only to find additional obstacles that further destabilize them. It is our obligation to repair the harm we have caused and remove barriers to access and opportunity that rob our entire city of the brilliance, joy, and powerful contributions of our immigrant and refugee families. **Tearing apart families and subjecting young people to traumatic encounters with police and ICE, makes our communities less safe. You have the opportunity to make our communities safer by supporting the amendments to the Community Safety Act.**

As a curriculum designer, I helped students understand different forms of government and the ways in which xenophobia has been used to install authoritarian governments at different times and places throughout history. Through rigorous analysis of many such moments, my students came to the conclusion that authoritarian states often pilot the use of violent policies, practices, and technologies to surveil, suppress, and detain the most marginalized members of their society, and if no one speaks out for or stands up with them, they weaponize those same tools and tactics against other members of the society, making the country and the world less safe and less free. In other words, **the violence we allow to occur to any one segment of our society, eventually affects our entire society and the less we resist blatant threats to our rights now, the less we will be able to in the future.**

I am writing to you now from Amsterdam where I am visiting family and exploring my Jewish ancestry and on each street in the old Jewish Quarter I have spotted gold plaques. Each plaque has the name of a Jewish neighbor who was taken from that exact spot during the Holocaust. All they knew at the time was that they were being deported. They didn't know where or what would happen to them there. Today we know that they were brought first to work camps and then to concentration camps where over 80% of the prewar Dutch Jewish community was murdered. I do not want a future tourist visiting Providence to see those same plaques on our sidewalk. **We have the power to stop the abduction of our neighbors.**

It is imperative that we speak out for and stand up with our immigrant neighbors now. **Our communities are freer, safer, and stronger when we support the right of all people to live joyful, abundant lives.** Signing

these amendments to the Community Safety Act into law is one way that you can begin to stand in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors and ensure that all people in Providence are safer and freer now and into the future. And, it is just the beginning.

Sincerely,
Emma York

Mastroianni, Tina

From: julissa munoz <julissamunoz7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 6:29 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] KEEP ICE OUT OF PROVIDENCE

Good evening,

I'm testifying to demand an end to the Providence police collaboration with ICE. It is very clear to the people of Providence that the Providence police are working hand-in-hand with ICE, even though it is against local law. ICE has been making their presence stronger within our communities and it is destroying our city.

I am demanding that ICE stop preying on the people of Providence outside of our courthouses. The people of Providence have seen the atrocities carried out by ICE agents preying on people who are merely attending their court date and abiding by the law. We've seen domestic violence victims, be kidnapped by ICE. and we, the people of Providence are disgusted. shame on every Providence police officer who is allowing this to happen going against our local laws.

In addition to demanding that the Providence police stop collaborating with ICE, the officers complicit in this collaboration must also be held accountable. even though we already had a law in place outlawing the Providence police from collaborating with ICE, we still saw this happen on multiple occasions specifically on Alverson Avenue in Providence. This is an abuse of power.

The majority of Providence residents already don't feel safe with the police system that is in place. The city needs to care about its residents, immigrants and citizens alike. It is the city's duty to keep us safe, and they are failing us time and time again. It is time to enact change. The change cannot be small I demand that Providence police and their collaboration with ICE.

Thank you.

Julissa Munoz

Providence Resident

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Erin Johnson-McDonough <ejmcd00@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 7:44 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PACK CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR THE SESSION: THURSDAY 10/16 5:30PM

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to demand protection over our community members from ICE. The way the city officials have been handling ICE terrorizing our neighborhoods is despicable. Providence police have been unlawfully working with ICE to help them detain our family and friends. These police need to be held accountable for abusing their power.

ICE has been stalking and kidnapping our community members from Rhode Island courts. How are individuals expected to legally become citizens if they are not given the chance to go through the expected procedures? In some instances, victims attending court have been kidnapped. If the mayor is going to continue to allow the police to unlawfully work with ICE, at the very least, virtual hearings should be available for all individuals who request them.

ICE being in our community is not just a danger to anyone who isn't white - just today an ICE vehicle ran a red light in front of Nathaniel Greene Middle School and crashed into a sedan. ICE is a danger to our public safety. Our elected government officials are to have the communities best interest in mind, and that includes our safety. What is it going to take for the City Council to step in and stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods?

Besides the fact that this country is ~97% non-Native American, Providence specifically is a beautiful culmination of so many immigrants. These immigrants bring so much culture, positivity, and life to our community. If you aren't aware of their value, you should not be in a position where you are speaking on behalf of and making decisions that directly impact them. I demand protection of our loved ones and for the Community Safety Act be amended to prevent the local police from working with ICE.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Emily <emily.cribas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 7:54 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE testimony

Hello,

I am a Providence community member and volunteer for PSL/ONA/AMOR's deportation defense line. I am demanding a ban on police-ICE collaboration and ICE kidnappings at the courthouse. Under a fascist regime, it is trust and building among our local community members that will keep us safe and it is clear ICE has no interest in, and is actively getting in the way of, making Providence a safer, more vibrant place to live. Speaking bluntly, we want to ban ICE from Providence and abolish ICE in the long run and we will not stop packing the courts and sending testimonies until this happens. ICE is not part of our community, they do not (care to) know us, and they cause harm and fear. They are unwelcome intruders that need to be eliminated.

Thank you,
Emily

--

Emily Cribas, PhD



Mastroianni, Tina

From: Matthew Cordeiro <taylormatthewcordeiro@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 7:56 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony: Providence Police and Court Systems cannot work with ICE

Dear City Clerk,

As a resident of Providence, in particular the Smith Hill area, we need ICE and/or private Police out of our neighborhoods!

I'm testifying to demand that **Providence Police & ICE collaboration needs to come to an end**. Although the Providence Chief of Police has stated there has been no collaboration, I've seen videos circulating online of Providence Police aiding ICE in a kidnapping of a Providence resident.

I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse. Time and time again ICE has preyed on innocent individuals obeying the law by attending their legal court date. It's the responsibility of the city to keep all its residents safe, regardless of immigration status **which is why Providence should allow virtual court proceedings to those who request them.**

As of today, **there have been two officer-related incidents on or near Nathanael Greene Middle School property**, approximately 3 minutes from where I live.

The first on June 18th 2025, where a group of individuals in unmarked vehicles loaded up with magazines attached to their bulletproof vests for what looked like an AR-15 rifle. **The second incident was today, October 14th 2025.** An ICE Agent sped through a red light at the intersection of Chalkstone Ave and Oakland Ave, striking a vehicle into a light pole. **Please let it be known that this intersection frequents many kids navigating to and from school.**

Something needs to be done regarding the damage ICE is doing in our neighborhoods and communities. I urge the city council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from further terrorizing our community.

Thank you for your time,

--

T. Matthew Cordeiro
Software Engineer
he/him/his
URI Talent Development Alumni

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Jair Perez <jairperez194@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:05 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for CSA

To be shared with city council:

My name is Jair Pérez. I was born and raised in Rhode Island, and I'm the son and brother of Central American immigrants here in Providence, and a member of the Deportation Defense Network.

ICE has killed 15 people (that is confirmed on public record) in the US this year and they have not been held accountable for any of those murders, and most likely will not for the foreseeable future. They have deported community member, oncologist at Brown University Health, Rasha Alawieh, against judicial order. They are detaining three people every two days since the start of Trump's second term in our state. They use every possible method to abduct people, including lying, slander, threats, extortion, breaking and entering, assault, and as mentioned above, murder.

We are all familiar with the same-old, tired pretense: dangerous criminals looming behind every alley, breaking laws under the benevolent cover of the Democratic Party, have forced the reality of ICE to be used against the internal, unanswered threat. These fascist fantasies cooked, bottled, and sold to the American public through widely available far right media are obviously convincing, but that's true about all fantasies foisted onto the public by the far right. When we take that check to the bank, the results are clear: immigrants commit less crime per capita than non-immigrants, and crime overall is down across the US. The far right fantasies unravel as soon as even the slightly critical eye peeks under the hood, revealing their racist ideas for what they are. But this isn't to say that there isn't a violent, criminal threat terrorizing the free, hard-working people of our country at a time of economic unrest; this aspect, to the credit of the fascist policymakers, pundits and press, is not a fantasy. There *is* a violent criminal threat prowling uncontrollably on our streets, and that threat is ICE. If ICE, masked and without warrant, can grab *anyone* off the street without confirming their agency, that constitutes a kidnapping, federal authorization be damned. If they can ignore judicial orders at will, then the judges *are* damned. This past week, ICE abducted a reporter covering a detention - the reporter was in turn detained by ICE, and after they shoved her into their unmarked car, they ran into a woman pulling out into the street going to work by pulling a U-Turn into moving traffic. They then arrested the woman driving for obstruction. This is who ICE is.

This is the most dangerous moment for whatever democracy the American people have left since Jim Crow apartheid. How we act during this moment is what history will remember, and history doesn't remember cowards. History won't remember how many votes you lost or won by; it won't remember the policies that remained on paper or words on the screen; it remembers the villains of history with disgust, and its heroes with admiration. A city council position in a small to medium sized city in New England is not worth sacrificing your dignity; if you allow collaboration, you *are* a collaborator. The power you do have should be to protect that small to medium sized city. If the only thing you can do is legislate, then legislate with everything that you have. This is the *only* thing that will win the respect of your constituents. Make more than a statement; make laws. Do not allow the collaboration between the Providence Police and ICE, and this should be especially true of ICE agents waiting outside of the courthouse for all the immigrants released from district court. Make ICE sweat for every detention in Providence - the Deportation Defense Line will handle the rest.

Seeking justice,
Jair Pérez

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Marian Gonzalez <mariangonzalez28.mg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:16 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE OUT OF OUR COMMUNITIES!!

As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities!

I demand an end to police/ICE collaboration.

We know that the Providence Police have been collaborating with ICE, even though it's against local law and even though the Providence Police Chief himself keeps lying to us about it.

How can we trust a city government that has a police chief who keeps lying to us about his cops working together with ICE?

I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse. We have seen ICE laying in wait and preying on people who are just attending their court date. We've even seen domestic violence victims getting kidnapped from court by ICE.

If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now. These protections are stronger than what existed before, but the best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.

We need the City to protect us from police abuse too. We've seen so many instances of the Providence Police violating our rights and attacking our neighbors. Just this summer, we saw the horrific incident of the Providence Police beating up young Black and brown kids (<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DMAAtTh-sycR/>) on West Friendship Street. The changes to the ordinance are just a first step to stopping police violence against the people of Providence.

Any changes to the law have to include real ways for us to hold the Providence Police accountable if they collaborate with ICE. The City and state keep saying that they can't control ICE. If that's the case, then the City needs to make sure that the City and its agencies aren't violating its own laws. How are you going to ensure that? Outlawing the police and courts from working with ICE is not enough – we already had a law saying the police couldn't help ICE, yet we saw police collaboration with ICE on camera on Alverson Ave! And then nothing could be done about it.

There must be real consequences when Providence police abuse their power. None exist in Providence. The civilian oversight board Providence External Review Authority (PERA) found PPD in violation of the CSA for collaborating with ICE, but we all know PERA has no power to hold Providence Police accountable. PERA has zero teeth.

The proposed changes to the law are better than what we have now, a step in protecting city residents, but they're not enough! I urge City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city.

We built the **Deportation Defense Network** because we've learned the hard way: we can't rely on the city to protect us. While **ICE has terrorized our neighborhoods and kidnapped our loved ones**, City Council and the Mayor have stood by, silent and complicit — watching from the sidelines. While city officials like the police chief and the mayor have lied to our faces. **Since February**, we've organized a **network thousands strong**, made up of community members who are actively protecting our people from deportation. While the city does nothing, we're doing the work **the city should be doing**.

You will be remembered for what you do today!

Sent from my iPhone

Mastroianni, Tina

From: devanshi ved <devanshiveddd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:26 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony to demand that the Providence Police and courts stop working with ICE!

To whom it may concern,

I'd like to start by thanking you for your service to the city. The state of the world and our country can feel really grim right now, and I'm grateful for the ability to send this message, and for the City Council to be voting on this issue.

I'm testifying to demand an end to Providence Police working with ICE. As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities. People being kidnapped without due process by government officials goes against so many of our human rights. Citizens being racially profiled and kidnapping people is illegal. None of this should be happening, it harms our communities, makes our cities more dangerous and fear ridden, and quite frankly does not make any sense. As someone that has lived here, worked here, paid taxes, and contributed to our community in so many varied ways, I am so angered by the state of what is happening right now. The police and the city should be protecting us. I really wish this divide didn't exist, and that we were all just working towards building safe supportive environments for us to live well and coexist.

I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse. We have seen ICE laying in wait and preying on people who are just attending their court date. We've even seen domestic violence victims getting kidnapped from court by ICE. **If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now.** These protections are stronger than what existed before, but the best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.

We need the City to protect us from police abuse too. We've seen so many instances of the Providence Police violating our rights and attacking our neighbors. Just this summer, we saw the horrific incident of the Providence Police beating up young Black and brown kids on West Friendship Street. The changes to the ordinance are just a first step to stopping police violence against the people of Providence.

Any changes to the law have to include real ways for us to hold the Providence Police accountable if they collaborate with ICE. The City and state keep saying that they can't control ICE. If that's the case, then the City needs to make sure that the City and its agencies aren't violating its own laws. How are you going to ensure that? Outlawing the police and courts from working with ICE is not enough – we already had a law saying the police couldn't help ICE, yet we saw police collaboration with ICE on camera on Alverson Ave! And then nothing could be done about it. **There must be real consequences when Providence police abuse their power. None exist in Providence.** The civilian oversight board Providence External Review Authority (PERA) found PPD in violation of the CSA for collaborating with ICE, but we all know PERA has no power to hold Providence Police accountable. PERA has zero teeth.

The proposed changes to the law are better than what we have now, a step in protecting city residents, but they're not enough! I urge City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city. We built the **Deportation Defense Network** because we've learned the hard way: we can't rely on the city to protect us. While **ICE has terrorized our neighborhoods and kidnapped our loved ones**, City Council and the Mayor have stood by, silent and complicit — watching from the sidelines. While city officials like the police chief and the mayor have lied to our faces. **Since February**, we've organized **a network thousands strong**, made up of community members who are actively protecting our people from deportation. While the city does

nothing, we're doing the work **the city should be doing.**

Again, thank you for the work you are doing, thank you for reading these testimonies and voting on this issue. This vote can really be a step in the right direction of keeping this city safe, and rebuilding trust with the systems that were meant to support and protect us.

With care,
Devanshi

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Naomi B. <naomiburgos18@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:29 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony: Providence Police, Court Systems and ICE

Dear City Clerk,

As a resident of the Smith Hill area in Providence, I am writing you today with urgency.

I'm testifying to demand that Providence Police and ICE collaboration comes to an end. Although the Providence Chief of Police has stated there has been no collaboration, I've seen videos circulating online of Providence Police aiding ICE in a kidnapping of a Providence resident.

I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse. Time and time again ICE has preyed on innocent individuals obeying the law by attending their legal court date. It's the responsibility of the city to keep all its residents safe, regardless of immigration status which is why Providence should allow virtual court proceedings to those who request them.

As of today, there have been two officer-related incidents on or near Nathanael Greene Middle School property, approximately 5 minutes from where I live.

The first on June 18th 2025, where a group of individuals in unmarked vehicles loaded up with magazines attached to their bulletproof vests for what looked like an AR-15 rifle. The second incident was today, October 14th 2025. An ICE Agent sped through a red light at the intersection of Chalkstone Ave and Oakland Ave, striking a vehicle into a light pole. Please let it be known that this intersection frequents many kids navigating to and from school.

Something needs to be done regarding the damage ICE is doing in our neighborhoods and communities. I urge the city council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from further terrorizing our community.

Thank you in advance for your time,

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Alicia Piazza <aliciap1985@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:36 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony: Community Safety Act (Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Act).

I'm Alicia DaSilva - I from Pawtucket, I work and am part of the providence community, including w the Deportation Defense Network.

I'm testifying to demand an end to the Providence Police working with ICE and to demand more accountability from our city and police force.

It is important to me that Providence sets the example for our state and neighboring communities. And also a message to the nation:

Our immigrant neighbors should not live in fear, they should not be treated like criminals for merely existing. They should not be racially profiled. That should not be afraid to bring their children to school. they should not be targeted in court

When local police cooperate with ICE, they're aiding an agency that is kidnapping our neighbors. They are ripping families apart, stripping people of their rights and instilling fear in our communities.

ICE Is not here to keep anyone safe. They are a machine fueled by billions of dollars to back this administrations agenda of hitting a quota for filling detention centers that profit off of capacity.

ICE is getting billions more in funding under this administration. Its budget has exploded And they want further assistance from our local police forces and resources? More of our tax dollars taken from us to tear our communities down, not build them up.

Local officers and resources should protect our neighbors, not hand them over to a broken immigration system that thrives on fear and racial profiling and profit.

Providence cannot be a pipeline for federal enforcement that tears families apart and breaks down our communities.

Alicia Lynn Piazza
Cell: 203-464-4912
AliciaP1985@gmail.com

@Alicia_isHere

instagram: AliciaP1985
www.linkedin.com/in/aliciapiazza

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Jamie Gonzalez <gonzalezjamie328@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:06 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerned resident of Providence

As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities!

I demand an end to police/ICE collaboration.

We know that the Providence Police have been collaborating with ICE, even though it's against local law and even though the Providence Police Chief himself keeps lying to us about it.

How can we trust a city government that has a police chief who keeps lying to us about his cops working together with ICE?

I demand an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse. We have seen ICE laying in wait and preying on people who are just attending their court date. We've even seen domestic violence victims getting kidnapped from court by ICE.

If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now. These protections are stronger than what existed before, but the best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.

We need the City to protect us from police abuse too. We've seen so many instances of the Providence Police violating our rights and attacking our neighbors. Just this summer, we saw the horrific incident of the Providence Police beating up young Black and brown kids (<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DMAth-sycR/>) on West Friendship Street. The changes to the ordinance are just a first step to stopping police violence against the people of Providence.

Any changes to the law have to include real ways for us to hold the Providence Police accountable if they collaborate with ICE. The City and state keep saying that they can't control ICE. If that's the case, then the City needs to make sure that the City and its agencies aren't violating its own laws. How are you going to ensure that? Outlawing the police and courts from working with ICE is not enough – we already had a law saying the police couldn't help ICE, yet we saw police collaboration with ICE on camera on Alverson Ave! And then nothing could be done about it.

There must be real consequences when Providence police abuse their power. None exist in Providence. The civilian oversight board Providence External Review Authority (PERA) found PPD in violation of the CSA for collaborating with ICE, but we all know PERA has no power to hold Providence Police accountable. PERA has zero teeth.

The proposed changes to the law are better than what we have now, a step in protecting city residents, but they're not enough! I urge City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city.

We built the Deportation Defense Network because we've learned the hard way: we can't rely on the city to protect us. While ICE has terrorized our neighborhoods and kidnapped our loved ones, City Council and the Mayor have stood by, silent and complicit — watching from the sidelines. While city officials like the police chief and the mayor have lied to our faces. Since February, we've organized a network thousands strong, made up of community members who are actively protecting our people from deportation. While the city does nothing, we're doing the work the city should be doing.

You will be remembered for what you do today!

Mastroianni, Tina

From: leidy perez <leidyperezcarrillo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:07 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony to demand that the Providence Police and courts stop working with ICE

As a resident of Providence, I want ICE out of our communities! I demand an end to police/ICE collaboration. We know that the Providence Police have been collaborating with ICE, even though it's against local law and even though the Providence Police Chief himself keeps lying to us about it.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Kate Hao <kate.hao@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:23 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE out of Providence! End PPD collaboration with ICE!

I'm testifying in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE, and to demand an end to the Providence Police working with ICE.

As someone who lives and works in Providence, I am disgusted by the continued kidnappings carried out by ICE outside the courthouse and in our neighborhoods, targeting our immigrant community members. On top of that, it is unacceptable that the Providence Police have been aiding ICE in carrying out kidnappings, as proven through video footage, despite the fact that it's against local law.

I strongly urge City Council to do everything in your power to end police collaboration with ICE and to stop the violence and destruction that ICE has been wreaking on our neighborhoods. It is your duty to protect the residents of this city from police abuse and ICE terror. At a minimum, this will include voting in favor of the proposed amendments to the Community Safety Act.

Thank you,
Kate Hao

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Sajo <sjefferson231@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:24 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE out of the courts! ICE out of Providence! Stop police terror!

I demand an end to police/ICE collaboration and an end to ICE kidnapping people outside the courthouse. We have seen ICE laying in wait and preying on people who are just attending their court date. We've even seen domestic violence victims getting kidnapped from court by ICE. If the city really wants to prevent court kidnappings, we can offer virtual court proceedings to all who request them right now. These protections are stronger than what existed before, but the best way to keep our immigrant community members safe is if they do not have to go to court in person.

We need the City to protect us from police abuse too. We've seen so many instances of the Providence Police violating our rights and attacking our neighbors. Just this summer, we saw the horrific incident of the Providence Police beating up young Black and brown kids on West Friendship Street. The changes to the ordinance are just a first step to stopping police violence against the people of Providence.

Any changes to the law have to include real ways for us to hold the Providence Police accountable if they collaborate with ICE. The City and state keep saying that they can't control ICE. If that's the case, then the City needs to make sure that the City and its agencies aren't violating its own laws. How are you going to ensure that? Outlawing the police and courts from working with ICE is not enough – we already had a law saying the police couldn't help ICE, yet we saw police collaboration with ICE on camera on Alverson Ave! And then nothing could be done about it.

There must be real consequences when Providence police abuse their power. None exist in Providence. The civilian oversight board Providence External Review Authority (PERA) found PPD in violation of the CSA for collaborating with ICE, but we all know PERA has no power to hold Providence Police accountable. PERA has zero teeth.

The proposed changes to the law are better than what we have now, a step in protecting city residents, but they're not enough! I urge the City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods, and to make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city.

Warmly,
Sajo

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Daniel Lee <danielaaronleejr@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:33 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony in Support of Amendments to the Community Safety Acts

Good evening,

I am a school bus driver, and I can no longer accept my students being afraid. I can no longer accept our government's relative silence on this issue. We will continue to organize against ICE and if you want to ensure your positions in power we demand these amendments be approved and for Rhode Island to continue its history of not abiding with the status quo.

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Mastroianni, Tina

From: Prateek Joshi <prateek_joshi@alumni.brown.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:36 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony on Proposed Amendments to Community Safety Act

Hi,

I am a resident of Providence and I am writing in support of the amendments to make our community safer from terror that ICE is perpetrating. The Providence Police are supposed to protect and serve our communities, and collaborating with ICE on their barbaric tactics makes all of us less safe. As the child of immigrants, it hurts me to see ICE tearing our beautiful city apart, using our own police and courthouse in service of their cruelty.

Thanks,
Prateek

Mastroianni, Tina

From: VyVy Trinh <vyvytrinh89@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:59 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please amend the Community Safety Act

To the Providence City Council,

I am a resident of Providence and a physician who cares deeply about our community. I am writing to strongly demand an end to collaboration between the Providence police department and ICE. It has been clear on multiple occasions that Providence police are helping ICE's work of terrorizing and abducting immigrants without due process, and this needs to end.

Furthermore, I strongly urge the city to require that the court offer virtual court proceedings. These are people who are trying to follow the law, to attend their court cases as required, only to be kidnapped the second they step out of the court. This is insane. Virtual court proceedings are just as valid and allow all parties to actually address whatever legal, domestic, or civil matter is at hand--rather than immediately handing community members over to ICE on a silver platter. There has been precedent for virtual court hearings during COVID; why not reinstate them? This is not about people evading the law and their obligations to court; this is about allowing people to participate in court proceedings safely without threat of abduction and disappearance by ICE.

Thank you in advance for your courage.

Elyse Trinh

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Jeanelle Wheeler <jeanellewheeler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:59 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony: Proposed amends to Community Safety Act

Dear City Council,

As a Providence resident, I want ICE out of our communities. As a former ESL English teacher in Providence Public Schools and volunteer at Dorcas International Institute, I have been deeply connected with Providence's immigrant community. And as a current volunteer with the Deportation Defense Network, I have door-knocked and gone to many local businesses to spread the word about the hotline. I have had community members tell me that they have seen ICE kidnap their neighbors and lurk outside schools. Our community is afraid.

We know that the Providence police are supporting ICE. They are not keeping our community safe. The proposed amendments to the Community Safety Act is a step in the right direction to demand an end to ICE terror. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Jeanelle Wheeler

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Kyra Fryling <kyra@fryling.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 10:29 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Amendments to the Community Safety Act (Providence City Sec. 18 ½-4. – Providence Community-Police Relations Act)

To whom it may concern,

I'm testifying in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE. As a Providence resident I feel all community members should have the right to safely appear in court without risk to their well-being and safety. We've seen ICE time and time again harass and kidnap individuals at courthouses and the city must do more to show it's willing to protect its inhabitants. In order to prevent kidnappings, the city should consider offering virtual court proceedings to all who request them. This step is crucial in escalating the battle to keep our immigrant community members safe.

I demand that Providence policy cease their cooperation with ICE, as it violates local laws. Too many families live in fear of leaving their houses and appearing in court, and Providence police are only supporting these harmful and dangerous actions.

Thank you,
Kyra Fryling

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Hanna Lichtenstein <hokiehan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 8:17 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written testimony for council session on 10/16

Firstly, thank you to all our city clerks for all the work they/you do. I hope it isnt too late to send in written testimony for the session on 10/16. I've added my written testimony below. Thank you again.

This written testimony is in support of the proposed amendments to protect our community from ICE, prevent ICE from collaborating or colluding with police, and to keep ICE agents from stalking and kidnapping people from our court. I see the council working to strengthen protections of city residents and this amendment is so important and so timely. We must stop the obvious ongoing collusion between providence police and ICE, which I have seen with my own eyes. We must strengthen what codifies these beliefs and what must be done to prevent this breach of civil liberties and this disgusting imitation of militaristic and fascist power. When police and ICE collaborate, we are all at risk. The brazen intrusion into our city's courthouses by masked men in unmarked cars, kidnapping people from their court procedures, is a catastrophic infringement on what the courts are supposed to represent.

The proposed changes to the law are just one step in protecting our city, and I hope this City Council will do everything in its power to stop ICE terror. They should not be allowed to stalk our courts and neighborhoods, and they should certainly not be assisted by the city police force. The additional steps are necessary and yet insufficient, but a step forward none the less. At this point, inaction is an action to codify the extralegal activities of ICE in our community and this council has a role to not let that happen.

Thank you.

-Hanna Lichtenstein

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Manuel Urizar <manuel.urizar0410@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 11:53 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ICE out of Providence

Good night,

My name is Manuel Urizar, I am currently a senior at Hope High School and a member of the leadership team at the Providence Student Union. I would like to express my disapproval of ICE kidnapping people off our streets and inserting fear into the community. We demand for ICE to be out of our city, and we want it now.

Since the current administration has been sworn into office, days have been filled with sorrow and preoccupation of what bad news we will wake up to the next day. Brothers and sisters being demonized just for coming into a new space that has promised them a warm welcome and successful life just to be met with discrimination from a population that swears by their flag that they claim represents a no limit freedom. But what exactly is freedom if only the rich and white possess it and toss whatever leftovers there is to us?

Many argue that immigrants just come to the country to take advantage of what this land has to offer, that they steal opportunities that "belong" to others who have been here before them. It is at this very moment, that you have to open your eyes and realize that we live in a place that has abided by a first come-first serve system for a long time and has applied it on many occasions in order to get people to fight over rights, to fight over jobs, to fight over spaces. And while we're too focused on searching for what other minority group to blame for our mishaps, the higher ups just fill their pockets and ego by looking at how fortunate they are that they can just place us on a checkerboard and make us knock each other out.

When problems are put in front of us, we should have authorities that are there to aid us, for a long time, it hasn't felt like that. If trust in police officers was already null in the community due to their mistreatment of black, brown, and lgbtq+ groups, now it goes past the negative points as they are coming together with ICE to target a city that contains a major immigrant population. It is not guaranteed that if you call for the help of an officer you won't be profiled by the color of your skin or your accent. Many are scared to even leave their homes, to send their kids to school, to go do the daily tasks that they were once able to perform with little to no panic because they feel like what they have built over time can just be taken away in one simple finger snap. How do we know who we can trust when anyone can sign up to be an ICE agent and terrorize their community?

This is why I urge you to please do what is in your hands to prevent ICE from coming into the city and shake hands with local police. We want a safe Providence where everyone, documented or undocumented, long time resident or recently arrived, feel like they have a chance at starting over at a new place and forming part of the beautiful community that is there to serve them. Whatever effort you can make to protect your people will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for providing the space,
Manuel Urizar

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Ian O'Donnell <cephalopodwrangler1917@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 12:00 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Community Safety Act

Adding my voice to the many others in Providence demanding that the Providence city council do everything possible to stop ICE and the rest of the deportation machine from terrorizing immigrant communities.

- Stop letting ICE deport people outside the courthouse! They've been caught doing it, over and over again, lurking outside, and even inside the parking garage, trying to kidnap people! OFFER VIRTUAL COURT HEARING LIKE WE'VE ALREADY DONE BEFORE!!!
- No more police collaboration with ICE! They're still doing it and still lying to us about it! And punish them for flagrantly violating the existing prohibitions against police-ICE collaboration in Providence! If there are no actual penalties to it, there's no actual prohibition against it!
- Stop letting the police terrorize the residents of Providence! Enough impunity for these violent, armed thugs beating up Black and brown kids! You can't beat up children just because you have a badge! Fire them and send them to jail!
- PERA is purely symbolic, totally powerless: a transparent attempt at placating the people demanding real accountability for the abuses of power by the armed agents of the state. Hand power over the police to the people of Providence!

The mayor and city council have just sat by and let the most predatory agents of the state terrorize our people, while the Deportation Defense Network has done what you should have been doing! (401-675-1414)

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Pam Montes <pmontes.isabel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 1:46 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for 10/16 - Pamela Montes

Hello, sorry for the late reply, I am in a different time zone.

Hello, my name is Pamela Montes, I was born and raised in Providence RI, I'm an organizer with the Party for Socialism and Liberation, a volunteer with the Deportation Defense Network, I work at Rhode Island College, and I am also a proud daughter of immigrants.

I'm here to demand an end to the collaboration of ICE and the Providence Police. To demand an end to ICE in our state. I was there after ICE detained a man, Ivan Rene Mendoza Meza on Alverson Ave in Providence and there was recorded video of the Police helping ICE detain the man. Not only this but the man's neighbors spoke about how ICE agents crashed into a parked vehicle then blamed it on the detained man, they were also out there telling separate neighbors lies that the man had kidnapped a child, that he was a gang member, or that they found a weapon in his car.

Police chief Oscar Perez and Mayor Smiley claimed Providence Police Department were not assisting ICE, and just responded to the car crash,

When review of body camera footage from the incident reviewed by the Providence External Review Agency (PERA) found that PPD violated city ordinances by providing unneeded assistance, establishing a perimeter, holding back neighbors, and actively assisted ICE in helping to detain the man on immigration detainer, who had no outstanding criminal charges. As their report said, "We have determined that the police department was in violation of both city ordinance and police department policy when they impermissibly assisted ICE agents in conducting civil immigration enforcement operations." The Mayor's office responded by saying that PPD would issue a "training bulletin."

THAT IS NOT ENOUGH.

I mean come on ICE is even out there in Chicago tear gassing their own police!!!

If the city really wanted to protect us, we could actually follow what Chicago is doing, which is banning ICE from all public property in the city and asking businesses and community organizations to join that effort. Now that is unity with the people in your city.

We've seen all across the nation how violent and lawless ICE has been. Multiple people have even been killed by ICE.

Here in Rhode Island, over 350 people have been detained including a 3-year-old. In fact, ICE has even detained at least 10 children under the age of 18.

Most of those with criminal convictions were for minor traffic or immigration violations, not violent crimes. And the people of Rhode Island are being told nothing and the violence has surged with an increase of over 180% detainments this year here in Rhode Island alone!

City Council and the Mayor have stood by, silent and complicit and police chiefs have lied to our faces - so I'm urging City Council to do everything in its power to stop ICE from terrorizing our neighborhoods and kidnapping our friends, family, neighbors, and loved ones.

As a volunteer with the defense line, I've now been on the phone and in person with people, human beings - in tears about being ripped away from their loved ones. People are afraid to go to work, to get groceries, to take their kids to school. I'm standing here, asking you to please make the right decision for the people in your city, what everyone here is asking you to do. We need you, City Council, to help make sure that the police and the courts are not helping ICE destroy our city and to hold ICE accountable for their actions.

Best,

Pamela Montes

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Courtney Graham <courtneywgraham@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 11:19 PM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thursday City Council Hearing

Hello,
I'm emailing my testimony for this Thursday's Providence City Council hearing.

As a resident of Providence, I am in support of the proposed amendments to the Community Safety Act.

Expanding access to the courthouse by allowing virtual hearings would greatly increase the safety of our neighbors. Provisions that were made in some courts for COVID-19 safety precautions were intended to increase community safety. They could similarly be expanded to increase safety for our immigrant community here in Providence.

Our immigrant neighbors are being targeted by ICE, especially in their most vulnerable moments, for example attending court for immigration or unrelated reasons. Immigrants already have some of the lowest reporting rates for crimes against them, like domestic abuse, so allowing ICE to continue pouncing on people around their court visits will compound the lack of safety for these immigrant neighbors.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Courtney Graham

Mastroianni, Tina

From: Kunovenu Haimbodi <kunovenu.haimbodi@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:25 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on amendment to Community Safety Act

Kuno Haimbodi
98 Harrison St. Providence, RI 02909

I'm here to stand with the people of Providence who are clear in what we believe. We stand firmly with our friends, with our kin, with our people. We stand with our immigrant neighbors from around the globe who's communities back home have been made unstable and unsafe by this country's endless wars and plunder, who have been evicted from their lands by the multi-national corporations based in this country, who's soils have been made non-arable by the climate crisis that this country's ruling class has fueled, the very same ruling class that has the audacity to brutally turn them away at artificial borders and funds the forces that we now see terrorizing immigrants in our city.

Those forces include the Providence Police, as we all know. PPD has developed crueler and more wicked ways to oppress the poor and marginalized people of this city since its inception. This year, ICE's attacks have provided the perfect cover for them to dive more deeply into their attempts to control our people. Piggy-backing on this most recent attempt of the ruling class of this country to target the most vulnerable of us. PPD knows the fear that immigrant communities are being subjected to and have only fueled this terror through their collaboration.

Ultimately, it is the people who will truly resist these irredeemably violent institutions, ICE and the Providence Police. I know this because I have spoken to dozens of neighbors throughout the west end through work with the Deportation Defense Network, and we are not backing down. Still, changes like these which seek to compel the institutions we all rely on schools, hospitals, to adhere to our community's needs are the least this body can do. This will not dampen our struggle nor provide a sense of comfort, but I urge you all to allow this change to continue to fuel the people in our resolve.

Mastroianni, Tina

From: STEVEN CASTIGLIONI <lioni1@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 10:32 AM
To: Clerk, City
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Community-Police Relations Act TESTIMONY

Dear members of the Providence City Council,

By way of introduction, I have spend decades in the police service, as a Public Safety Commissioner, a national executive level trainer, a police service consulting, and a law enforcement higher educator. I own a home and live in this great city.

I ask that you take the time to carefully read and reflect on this submission.

As the City Council considers the proposed changes to the Community-Police Relations Act, I would like to express my DEEP AND STRONG OBJECTION to these amendments.

Some provisions in the Community-Police Relations Act are already concerning. The amendments before you today are an absolute abomination.

This very disturbing set of amendments have no valid purpose. They do not "protect residents"; quite the contrary. They place the city in a ridiculous scenario whereby the Providence Police Department (PPD) is restricted from fully policing the city they strive to protect!! It is outrageously absurd.

They are:

- 1) an insult to the honor and integrity of the men and women of the Providence Police Department who are sworn to enforce all laws, protect all persons - including other law enforcement officers - and to assist other law enforcement agencies in the performance of their duty, when necessary.
- 2) a betrayal of the American people and legal immigrants of Providence, those that work here, and those that visit the city. It in essence rejects federal immigration law.
- 3) a clear message that this City Council places its loyalty with ILLEGAL ALIENS over the laws of the United States of America.

To restrict the PPD as these amendments do is to remove *the very officials that should be present at every potentially problematic incident.*

These amendments are:

- 1) Potentially exposing and endangering federal law enforcement officers to physical obstruction, assault, or worse
- 2) Potentially endangering innocent persons to injury in any law enforcement encounter
- 3) Potentially allowing violence against persons or property, obstruction of roadways, and obstruction of justice by those intent on causing harm, chaos or other criminal act
- 4) Potentially causing serious financial harm to both the city and its police officials

This is a dangerous and highly irresponsible path to place this city on.

While the PPD or any city or state police agency should not act as active immigration officers (unless through a 287g agreement), they must always be ready and able to assist all law enforcement agencies in the performance of their duty when required to do so. In the case of the PPD, these can and should include maintaining order, protecting all involved, enforcing all applicable city and state laws, and maintain public order and safety at any other law enforcement agency's operation.

The PPD must never be excluded from a presence at any place, at any time, in this city when it involves any public safety matter.

Law enforcement (city, state, and federal) is dynamic, dangerous, and requires decisive action. It also is an honorable profession with an oath of office that requires the police to act to maintain the peace, order, and safety of the city...always.

To "box in" the PPD in its operational context is a very poor...in fact, unconscionable, act.

These amendments are unquestionably designed to limit the ability of federal law enforcement officers to enforce immigration law in our city; thereby protecting ILLEGAL ALIENS and essentially obstruct justice. We all know that.

Please act to do the right thing for this city and this nation.

I EMPHATICALLY URGE YOU TO **VOTE AGAINST** THESE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

Respectfully,

Steven L Castiglioni

Dr. Steven L Castiglioni

Commissioner (ret.)

Sent from my iPad