

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 170

Approved March 11, 2011

WHEREAS, The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) division of the Department of Homeland Security has initiated a program called Secure Communities with the stated goal to "identify criminal aliens in law enforcement custody," with the goal of deporting undocumented immigrants who have committed serious crimes; and

WHEREAS, As of September 2010, ICE reported that approximately 64,000 individuals had been deported under the Secure Communities initiative; and

WHEREAS, Serious concerns about the efficacy of Secure Communities with regard to its stated purposes have been raised by civil rights, immigrant rights, and police research organizations; and

WHEREAS, An August 2010 report by the Associated Press stated that ICE data showed that 25% of the immigrants deported under Secure Communities did *not* have criminal records; and

WHEREAS, Other concerns regarding Secure Communities include prolonged and/or unnecessary detention, lack of adequate oversight, and lack of data to determine how the program is being implemented; and

WHEREAS, A 2009 report by the Police Foundation ("The Role of Local Police: Striking a Balance Between Immigration Enforcement and Civil Liberties"), cites both benefits and costs to local law enforcement involvement in immigration control efforts, but concludes that such efforts undermine community policing, and that the federal government "must enact comprehensive border security and immigration reforms," and that the failure to do so has had "severe consequences" on cities' and towns' law enforcement agencies throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, On January 11, 2011, the Attorney General of Rhode Island signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Homeland Security which will activate all of Rhode Island law enforcement agencies' participation in the Secure Communities Program; and

WHEREAS, Currently, no mechanism exists for local law enforcement agencies to "opt-out" of Secure Communities once their state has been activated through a Memorandum of Agreement, as signed by the Rhode Island Attorney General on January 11, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The activation of the Providence Police Department in the Secure Communities program may have an impact on public safety and community policing efforts in the City of Providence.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request that the Commissioner of Public Safety, and the Chief of the Providence Police Department to review the Secure Communities initiative, including its:

- 1) implementation in other communities,
- 2) impact, based on data from ICE, on criminal and non-criminal undocumented immigrants, and
- 3) potential benefits and concerns.

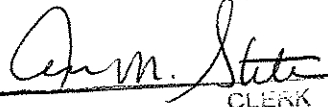
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council requests the Commissioner of Public Safety to inquire with the Department of Homeland Security what steps local law enforcement agencies may take, if any, to opt-out of the Secure Communities program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council requests that the Commissioner of Public Safety submit a written report to the Council regarding his findings.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAR - 3 2011
READ AND PASSED

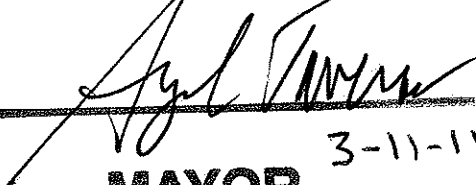


PRES.



CLERK

APPROVED



MAYOR

3-11-11