

Eagle County Resolution Relating to Support for Local Immigrant

While federal immigration policies and associated federal laws fall under the purview of federal law enforcement, when a custodial arrest of a subject is initiated, the Eagle County Jail will provide notice to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials regarding those undocumented immigrants booked into the jail. ICE has the discretion to respond to these notices. Additionally, local agencies will normally consider providing back-up assistance to federal law enforcement officials, upon formal request.

Please note that local law enforcement leaders from incorporated municipalities in Vail, Eagle and Avon, along with the Eagle County Sheriff, are committed to providing services and assistance for all who live in our communities. We wish to reinforce the message that everyone residing within these municipalities, as well as those residing in Eagle County Sheriff service areas, are part of our community and will have access to government services, including law enforcement assistance and justice, regardless of immigration status.

The partnerships built with our community are invaluable. Your local law enforcement leaders support procedures which encourage our residents to seek assistance, call for medical help, report suspicious circumstances, report criminal activities and otherwise provide a seamless avenue in order to provide information which is in the best interest of our community.

The values of the Town of Vail, Town of Eagle, Town of Avon and the Eagle County Sheriff will not be altered by perceptions which suggest local law enforcement focus on immigration status. Municipal police officers and sheriff deputies will not engage in detaining and questioning anyone living in our community based on immigration status, as immigration is a federal responsibility. The intent of local law enforcement leaders continue with the alignment of procedures that prohibit contacting anyone living in our community with the sole intent of ascertaining legal status in the United States.

Police officers and sheriff deputies in Eagle County are committed to assisting all members of our community with respect, equality and dignity. Local law enforcement will continue to investigate and apprehend criminal offenders who victimize those in our community. Inquiries into immigration status and assistance to federal authorities will normally occur when a subject is determined to be a violent offender and/or booked into the Eagle County Jail.

In summary, Eagle County patrol deputies and police officers from the Town of Vail, Town of Avon and Town of Eagle will not stop members of our community to inquire about their legal status in the U.S., as this is not the role of these first responders. This mirrors procedures from several other local police departments in surrounding communities. Effectively, the role of your local police and local sheriff is public safety through collaborative partnerships and problem solving, without fear of reprisal for reporting emergencies or requesting assistance from law enforcement officials based merely on immigration status.

Know that we are sworn to serve all residents and guests regardless of immigration status. Victims or witnesses of crime should never be afraid to come forward to report crimes.

Members of the Law Enforcement Immigrant Advisory Committee:

Co-Chairs: Dwight Henninger, Vail Police Chief

Megan McGee Bonta, Catholic Charities

Greg Daly, Avon Police Chief

James van Beek, Eagle County Sheriff

Joey Stauffer, Eagle Police Chief

Holly Kaspar-Blank, Bright Future Foundation

Brenda Torres, Avon Police Department

Kendra Cowles, Committee member

Patricia Pierce, Salvation Army

Maria Guerra Villegas, Early Childhood Education

Edgar Arroyo, Eagle Schools

Local municipal agencies and the Eagle County Sheriff's Office have agreed to the above standard operating procedures since the beginning of the year and have published these for community knowledge. Local agencies and the Sheriff have also held community meetings throughout Eagle County regarding these procedures, immigration status and policies.

If community members have questions, please feel free to channel them through a member of the Eagle County Law Enforcement Immigrant Advisory Committee, which can be reached by calling Megan McGee Bonta at Catholic Charities at [970- 949-0405](tel:970-949-0405) or via our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/inmigrantesypolicia.