



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

Executive Order 2025-2
September 22, 2025

A Safe Providence for All

Whereas, the City of Providence remains committed to being a safe and welcoming city for all neighbors of all immigration status. Our priority is the safety of all neighbors, providing essential city services and protecting the well-being of our community;

Whereas, Providence's strength and vitality comes from the diverse waves of immigrant communities that have called our city home;

Whereas, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) has allowed migrants who are unable to safely return to their countries to reside and work legally in the United States, and recent federal changes to threaten or terminate TPS and target immigration enforcement indiscriminately destabilizes our families and community, makes workers more vulnerable, disrupts the local economy, and undermines public health;

Whereas, Mayor Brett P. Smiley and Colonel Oscar L. Perez, Jr. have affirmed that the Providence Police Department will not, and should not, be immigration officers. The Providence Police will never ask for a person's immigration status and the City of Providence departments will not proactively collaborate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to provide information;

Whereas, the City of Providence complies with all federal, state and local laws and regulations;

Whereas, the Providence Police Department has successfully undergone a comprehensive assessment by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and remains an accredited agency, demonstrating its continued commitment to the highest standards of policy, procedure, and professionalism in accordance with CALEA's nationally recognized rules and regulations;

Whereas, federal grants have allowed the City of Providence to increase its police staffing and supported de-escalation training to ensure our officers are developing skills to avoid confrontation and helping our officers quickly resolve conflicts when responding to calls;

Whereas, the Providence Police Department has earned awards from the New England Chiefs Association and from the U.S. Department of Justice for its comprehensive approach and community partnerships that fostered trust and led to reduced violent crime;

Whereas, in 2025 violent crime has reached the lowest recorded levels in Providence since 1990 and the City has recently launched the first Real Time Crime Center in Rhode Island to provide detectives with the information and tools to rapidly respond to incidents and solve crimes more quickly;

Whereas, the City has established a cross-departmental working group that supports constituents experiencing homelessness guided by national best practices outlined in the 19 Strategies for Communities to Address Encampments Humanely and Effectively;

Whereas, the City has launched innovative programs like Mobile Health 1/PAIRED that partners qualified behavioral health experts with public safety professionals to provide appropriate responses in emergency situations; and

Whereas protecting access to sensitive locations such as healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and places of worship is essential for all community members to access basic services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Brett P. Smiley, Mayor of the City of Providence, hereby declare as follows:

1. Support for Providence Community Members and Prioritization of Effective Public Safety Strategies

The City of Providence affirms our commitment to financially support community partner organizations to deliver 24/7 emergency legal support for immigration and citizenship processes.

The City of Providence commits to continue our comprehensive, multi-department strategy to ensure our unhoused neighbors are being offered appropriate shelter and service referrals where available.

The City of Providence calls on the U.S. Congress and the federal government to invest in proven effective strategies to reduce violent crime including community policing and community violence intervention programs and restore funding without requiring local law enforcement to engage in civil immigration matters.

The City of Providence urges the U.S. Congress to maintain Temporary Protected Status for nationals of countries facing armed conflicts, environmental disasters or other extraordinary conditions.

The City of Providence urges community institutions to adopt protected areas policies.

2. Conduct of Providence Police Department

The Providence Police Department will remain a locally controlled law enforcement agency. No Providence Police Department personnel shall engage in civil immigration enforcement.

The Providence Police Department will continue to require body-worn cameras to remain on during interactions with the public.

The Smiley Administration will continue its commitment to invest in and support the training and resources needed to uphold the nationally recognized best practices of community policing in every neighborhood.

During regular on-duty operations, Providence Police Department personnel are required to wear their standard uniform or authorized business attire. Masks or protective equipment are allowed for health or safety reasons, however officers may not use such equipment for the purposes of concealing identity.

The Smiley Administration will continue to prioritize and invest in de-escalation training for all Providence Police officers.

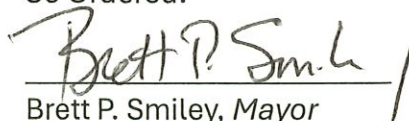
3. Conduct of Federal Law Enforcement or Armed Forces Members in Providence

To protect public safety and promote accountability, the City of Providence urges federal law enforcement personnel to follow the regulations of Rhode Island state law 42-161 requiring all front-line officers to wear body cameras while on duty.

Federal agents are urged to at all times when interacting with people in Providence to comply with procedures similar to the Providence Police Department and to clearly display the name of the federal agency, the last name and badge number of the federal law enforcement officer or the armed forces member's last name and rank. If a law enforcement officers' uniform or approved attire does not accommodate for this, agency name and badge must be clearly displayed at all times.

Federal agents are urged to at all times when interacting with people in Providence to follow Providence Police Department procedures for attire.

So Ordered:


Brett P. Smiley, Mayor