



Mayor of Providence

**Brett P. Smiley**

Executive Order 2026-1  
January 20, 2026

**Prohibiting the Use of City Property  
for Civil Immigration Enforcement Activities**

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, civil immigration enforcement operations can lead to greater risk of violence for residents, bystanders, first responders and law enforcement officials;

Whereas, Mayor Brett P. Smiley and Colonel Oscar L. Perez, Jr. continue to affirm 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 Providence Police Department (PPD) is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), and the PPD's training emphasizes de-escalation and the quick resolution of incidences to prevent harm and protect the safety of officers and community members;

Whereas, the Providence Police Department has earned recognition regionally and nationally for their innovation in community policing and reducing violent crimes, including the Community Policing Department of the Year Award from the New England Chiefs Association and selection for the Smart Policing Innovation Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice;

Whereas, the City's Executive Order No. 2026-1 "Prohibiting the Use of City Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement Activities," Executive Order No. 2025-2 "A Safe Providence for All" and Chapter 18 ½ Section 4 of the Providence Municipal Code, Providence Community-Police Relations Act are intended to ensure that City residents can access City facilities and services;

Whereas, the City owns and manages parks, parking lots and facilities, and other property for public and municipal purposes and has the responsibility to manage such

property in a manner that ensures public trust, access and the delivery of essential City services for all residents;

Whereas, the use of City property in civil immigration enforcement actions would interfere with the City's authority, community safety and control over its own resources, property and personnel;

Whereas, such use of City property and resources undermines public safety and erodes trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement;

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

### **1. Limitation/Prohibition on Use of City of Providence Property**

No City-owned parking lot, garage, park, or building, including the interior and exterior areas of any parcel upon which a building is located, or other City-owned property shall be used as a staging area, processing location, operations base, or other support for civil immigration enforcement. Prohibited uses include but are not limited to assembling, mobilizing or deploying vehicles, equipment, materials or personnel for the purpose of carrying out civil immigration enforcement operations.

For the purpose of this order, "staging area" means an area that is used to assemble, mobilize, and deploy personnel, vehicles, equipment, or materials, for any purpose arising out of or related to civil immigration enforcement operations.

### **2. Implementation**

Under the authority of the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer shall direct their relevant departments to identify City-owned property that could be used for the aforementioned purposes or any other similar activity for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement.

The departments must ensure that all areas have clear signage within 30 days, indicating that the property is owned and controlled by the City of Providence and may not be used for civil immigration enforcement.

### **3. Signage for Private Property Owners**

The Administration shall make available standardized signage templates available to private landowners and leaseholders, if they choose, for display to identify the non-public areas of the property in which the landowner or lease holder wishes to restrict activities related to civil immigration enforcement.

Signage design files will be made available to private landowners and leaseholders. Property owners and leaseholders that use this signage do so at their own discretion and assume any legal risk associated therewith.

### **4. Scope**

Nothing in this order shall be construed to restrict or interfere with the execution of lawful judicial warrants or the enforcement of criminal law, nor as limiting the rights of any person or entity under state or federal law.

This order reinforces and affirms the City's emphasis upon providing for the public safety of the City's residents and does not restrict or interfere with the lawful conduct of civil immigration enforcement.

So Ordered:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett P. Smiley", is written over a horizontal line. A long, sweeping flourish extends from the end of the signature to the right.

Brett P. Smiley, Mayor