

No “Secure Communities” Participation in King County

Whereas the City of Seattle, King County, and the State of Washington have been enriched and built by generations of immigrants; and

Whereas the King County Democrats 2012 Platform, adopted April 29, 2012, states that “We oppose using local law enforcement as agents of immigration enforcement”; and

Whereas the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement program called “Secure Communities” harms communities by mandating the sharing of information with the Department of Homeland Security on individuals they detain or arrest, thus making local law enforcement an arm of federal immigration policy; and

Whereas the "Secure Communities" program increases *insecurity* by causing immigrant populations to become mistrustful of local law enforcement, thus making them less willing to cooperate with police and therefore more vulnerable to victimization; and

Whereas the Secure Communities program encourages racial and/or ethnic profiling by law enforcement officers; and

Whereas communities are hurt when families are torn apart by the deportation of undocumented members, who then may have no access to their citizen children and/or spouses;

Therefore, be it resolved that we call upon King County and its officials and employees, to the extent permissible by law, to refrain from participating in Secure Communities and any similar federal immigration law enforcement program; and

Be it further resolved that, to the extent permissible by law, immigration detainer requests should not be honored by any King County employee or officer, including those at the King County Sheriff’s Office, the Department of Adult & Juvenile Detention, the King County Correctional Facility, and the Regional Justice Center; and

Be it further resolved that King County employees, including law enforcement, should not monitor, stop, detain, question, interrogate, or search a person for the purpose of determining that individual’s immigration status, nor inquire about the immigration status of any crime victim, witness, or suspect unless that status is directly relevant to the purported crime(s) under investigation, nor report such status to federal immigration authorities unless that status is directly relevant to said crime(s); and

Be it further resolved that the existence of a criminal investigation or arrest shall not be used as a basis to ascertain information about an individual’s immigration status unless that status is directly relevant to the purported offense(s); and

Be it finally resolved that copies of this Resolution be provided via email to King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Sheriff John Urquhart, and each member of the King County Council.

Adopted January 22, 2013 by King County Democratic Central Committee

Submitted by Colin Maloney, (206) 588-6089, colin.f.maloney@gmail.com

Adopted by the 43rd District Democrats on 9/19/2012, 34th District Democrats on 10/10/2012, 1st District Democrats on 1/3/2013, 32nd District Democrats on 1/9/2013, and 46th District Democrats on 1/17/2013.

Edited by the King County Democrats Resolutions Committee