

To our Town Councilor,

April 24, 2018

We would like your support of our proposed “Welcoming Town” resolution (attached). Could we set up a meeting to discuss it?

We plan to present the resolution to the Randolph Town Council for discussion and a vote at the May 21st Town Council meeting. The resolution lays out existing police department policy, reaffirming that policy within state law, without proposing any changes to that policy at this time.

The resolution would designate Randolph as a “Welcoming Town” for immigrants because existing police department policy prevents police officers from asking about immigration status unless a person is arrested for something else, and disallows arresting a person based solely on immigration status. We have met with Police Chief William Pace who affirms that the policy laid out in our resolution is, in fact, the long-standing police department policy.

We believe that publicizing the current police department policy would improve the relationship of the police with the immigrant community, and inform many immigrants that they can safely communicate with their police department. We believe that many immigrants do not know the existing police department policy, and accordingly avoid interaction with the police.

We represent the Randolph Democratic Town Committee and ORMAR, Our Revolution Massachusetts (Randolph chapter), who have endorsed the Welcoming Town Designation resolution. We are currently seeking endorsement by other local organizations and pastors, and intend to bring letters of support, and speakers, to the May 21st Town Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Kevin Joyce, chair of Randolph Democratic Town Committee, and member of ORMAR

Sandi Cohen, member of Randolph Democratic Town Committee and ORMAR

Sandy Slavet, member of Randolph Democratic Town Committee

Jesse Gordon, member of Randolph Democratic Town Committee and ORMAR

Meg Groden, member of Randolph Democratic Town Committee and ORMAR

Kit Hoffman, Secretary of Randolph Democratic Town Committee and member of ORMAR

WELCOMING TOWN DESIGNATION

1. *Whereas*, historically Randolph has welcomed immigrants from many regions around the world, including the Caribbean, Middle East, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America; and
2. *Whereas*, immigrants have enriched the cultural fabric of this community, adding new life and great potential to Randolph; and
3. *Whereas*, assumptions made about a person's legal status in the United States that are based upon the person's religion, ethnicity, or national origin, and discrimination, harassment, or bullying of people based on those assumptions, have no place in our community; and
4. *Whereas*, a nationwide trend of discriminating against immigrants because of religion or country of origin runs counter to our values; and
5. *Whereas*, with more knowledge among the immigrant community of current police department practices, public trust is enhanced, immigrants are more likely to cooperate with local law enforcement, thus making the work of local law enforcement easier to address serious crimes; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that the Randolph Town Council hereby affirms its support for these long-held Randolph Police Department practices:

- (a) will not detain persons solely to investigate their immigration status;
- (b) will not inquire into the immigration status of persons seeking help from the police unless the information is relevant to prosecuting the reported crime or for the person's protection;
- (c) will not keep an index or list of persons suspected of being in an undocumented status or deportable status;
- (d) will not seek to have any officer receive a delegation of the powers of an immigration officer;
- (e) will cooperate with federal, state, and local criminal and civil investigative agencies in the accomplishment of their lawful objectives by providing such information as the Police Department maintains, only as required by state and federal law;
- (f) will continue to investigate reports of hate crimes, criminal discrimination, and criminal harassment of persons based upon their religion, ethnicity, or national origin without regard to the person's known or suspected unlawful status within the United States; and
- (g) upon the presentation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement of a detainer and an administrative warrant for the detention of a person arrested by Randolph Police Department in the course of enforcing state and local laws and currently in custody, the Randolph Police Department will maintain custody of the person for sufficient time to bring to the attention of the court officials responsible for decisions upon bail. (The Randolph Police Department will continue this practice until such time as a court with authority over the Randolph Police Department finds the practice to be contrary to law).