

Frequently Asked Question – Sanctuary Cities

What does it mean that Chicago is a Sanctuary City?

Chicago's Welcoming City Ordinance means that the City will not ask about your immigration status, disclose that information to authorities, or, most importantly, deny you City services based on your immigration status.

Why does Chicago choose not to partner with Immigrations Customs Enforcement to deport undocumented individuals?

Partnering with ICE would go against our mission to make Chicago the most immigrant friendly city in the country and turn ours into a community of fear for immigrants. Furthermore, enforcing immigration law would take away needed resources and time from the Chicago Police Department. The Welcoming City Ordinance in fact helps CPD combat crime by allowing all victims to call the police and all witnesses to come forward without fear of being caught and deported.

Are there any circumstances in which undocumented individuals will be detained by the Chicago Police Department?

The only situations in which Chicago will detain undocumented individuals are if they are wanted on a criminal warrant by local or federal authorities, if they have been convicted of a serious crime and remain in the United States illegally, or if they are otherwise a clear threat to public safety or national security.

Will Chicago's commitment to immigrants be affected by the President-Elect's anti-Muslim rhetoric and his proposal to withhold funds from Sanctuary Cities?

As Mayor Rahm Emanuel has repeatedly reinforced, Chicago's status as a welcoming city for immigrants is not and will never be shaken. We will not cower to intimidations and refuse to back down as Washington fails to enact comprehensive immigration reform.