

No Participation with “Secure Communities” 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 (ICE) program called “Secure Communities” harms our 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 federal immigration policy; and

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

Whereas participation in 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 the 11th District Democrats call upon King County Executive Dow Constantine to enact a policy that its officials and employees, to the extent permissible by law, not participate in federal immigration law enforcement programs including, but not limited to, Secure Communities; and

Be it further resolved that, to the extent permissible by law, immigration detainer requests shall not be honored by any employees or officers of King County, 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 County employees, including law enforcement, shall not monitor, stop, detain, question, interrogate, or search a person for the purpose of determining that individual’s immigration status. Officers shall not inquire about the immigration status of any crime victim, witness, or suspect, unless such information is directly relevant to the investigation. The use of a criminal investigation or arrest shall not be used as a basis to ascertain information about an individual’s immigration status unless directly relevant to the offenses charged; and

Be it finally resolved that the 11th District Democrats shall provide copies of this Resolution via email to King County Executive Dow Constantine, to all members of the King County Council, to Sheriff John Urquhart, and to all members of the Washington State delegation from the 11th Legislative District.

Submitted to the 11th Legislative District Democrats for endorsement at its meeting of February 19th by Colin Maloney, Member, Communities United & PCO, 43rd District Democrats.

Nearly identical versions of this resolution have been passed by the following King County Democratic Party Legislative District organizations: the 43rd, the 34th, the 1st, the 32nd, the 46th, and also by the King County Democrats Central Committee.