



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

February 2, 2017

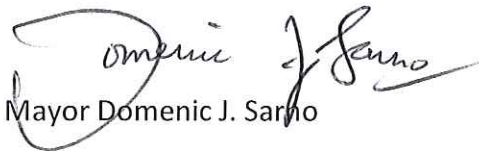
Dear Ward 6 Democratic Committee Members,

First of all, thank you all for your continued belief in investment in our Springfield. In response to your requests/demands – “the answer is no.”

Again, I am a firm believer in legal immigration, as my parents went through and are now American citizens too. The key here is assistance programs must be properly run with extensive follow through efforts that will empower those in need, from legal immigrants to our own residents in need too. Important here, is that these efforts do not put unsustainable financial pressures or public safety issues on our city budget, residents and business community.

Again, thank you for your concern. Wishing you and your families good health, luck, and continued success in all your future endeavors. Take care and God Bless.

Respectfully,


Mayor Domenic J. Sarno



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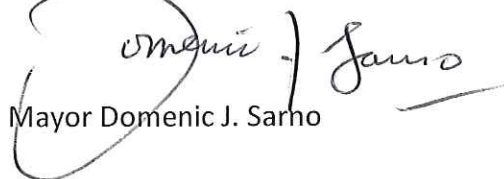
Dear Arise for Social Justice Members,

First of all, thank you all for your continued belief in investment in our Springfield. In response to your requests/demands – “the answer is no.”

Again, I am a firm believer in legal immigration, as my parents went through and are now American citizens too. The key here is assistance programs must be properly run with extensive follow through efforts that will empower those in need, from legal immigrants to our own residents in need too. Important here, is that these efforts do not put unsustainable financial pressures or public safety issues on our city budget, residents and business community.

Again, thank you for your concern. Wishing you and your families good health, luck, and continued success in all your future endeavors. Take care and God Bless.

Respectfully,


Mayor Domenic J. Sarno

C/O Arise for Social Justice
467 State Street
Springfield, MA 01105
413-734-4948



Mayor Domenic Sarno
Springfield City Hall
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

February 2, 2017

Dear Mayor Sarno:

We, the undersigned respectfully request a meeting with you on Monday, February 6th, 2017 to discuss the City of Springfield's policy with respect to cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

Last Friday, over 300 individuals, the majority of whom are our fellow residents of the City of Springfield, gathered on the steps of Springfield City Hall to reject the recent Executive Orders signed by President Donald Trump.

Chief among these residents' concerns was the possibility that local police would begin to take it upon themselves to enforce federal immigration laws.

We believe that the unnecessary cooperation with federal immigration officials in the City of Springfield would lead to further unnecessary demands on an already over-extended police force, and would compromise – rather than strengthen – the City's efforts to reducing local crime.

Unnecessary collaboration with federal immigration enforcement authorities will strain the relationship between the city's immigrant community, both documented and undocumented, with the Police Department. This will undoubtedly create an environment of fear that will discourage the immigrant community from cooperating with local authorities. Many city residents will be too scared to call 911 when they need help, and will be less likely to assist police with investigations. Indeed, a recent study of Latinos in four major cities found that 70% of undocumented immigrants and 40% of all Latinos are less likely to call police if they were victims of a crime for fear that the police will ask them or someone they know about immigration status. *Nik Theodore, Univ. of Illinois, Insecure Communities: Latino Perceptions of Police Involvement in Immigration Enforcement (May 2013)*

Such activity would also distract focus from our local police department to investigate and prevent local crimes, which is and should remain their primary responsibility.

It is our understanding that it has not been the practice of the Springfield Police Department to inquire about the immigration status of individuals unless it is relevant to an investigation.

We are asking that you issue a Mayoral Executive Order to formalize the following policies:

- (1) that the Springfield Police Department will not inquire into the immigration status of individuals and will not indicate the suspected immigration status of witnesses, perpetrators, or victims in SPD incident reports or other police documents,**
- (2) that the Springfield Police Department will not detain noncitizens at the request of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) (using ICE forms I-247, I-247N, I-247X, or I-247D)**

except in the limited situations where an undocumented immigrant has been charged and convicted of a serious felony offense under Massachusetts law;

- (3) that the City of Springfield and the Springfield Police Department will not enter into a contractual agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or its sub-agencies under the provisions of Section 287(g) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)) or any other agreement that “deputizes” local law enforcement agents to perform immigration enforcement functions. We ask that you enact this provision for a period of at least four (4) years from the date of the Mayoral Executive Order.**

We urge you to follow the examples set by your fellow mayor’s across the United States, including Mayors Alex Morse of Holyoke and David Narkewicz of Northampton, as well as Mayors Marty Walsh of Boston and Bill de Blasio of New York City, who have stood up to the Trump Administration this past week and shown strong support for their immigrant residents.

As you are aware, Springfield voters overwhelmingly rejected President Trump’s policy proposals on election day: 78.8% of residents who voted cast their ballots against the President. There is no federal law requiring municipal governments to honor the requests in the President’s Executive Order. We therefore encourage you to stand with the vast majority of your city’s residents and reject the Trump Administration’s campaign to impose his policies on our community.

We understand that you may be concerned with the Trump Administration’s threats to suspend federal funds to those cities deemed to be “sanctuary jurisdictions.” Nothing in the above proposals violate long-standing federal law and nothing in the proposals triggers Section 9 of President Trump’s January 25th Executive Order related to “sanctuary jurisdictions.”

The only federal statute restricting localities from enacting “sanctuary” policies is found at 8 U.S.C. 1373. That section of law, dating back to 1996, was the only law cited by President Trump’s January 25th Executive Order. Notably, 8 U.S.C. 1373 does not prohibit any of the policies proposed above. This is because federal law prohibits only local policies restricting the communication or maintenance of information regarding immigration status. Indeed, a recent internal analysis conducted by the U.S. Dept. of Justice clarified that federal law “does not impose on states and localities the affirmative obligation to collect information from private individuals regarding their immigration status, nor does it require that states and localities take specific actions upon obtaining such information.” In fact, this guidance document clarified that a city’s limitation on the collection of immigration information in no way threatens federal grants such as the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants (“JAG” grants) or the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (“COPS” grants).

Additionally, nothing under federal law requires that a local jurisdiction comply with so-called “ICE detainers”, and several courts have determined that the federal government cannot require or coerce (through federal funding) compliance with ICE detainers. In short, nothing we are asking here will place Springfield at risk of the loss of federal funding.

We hope that you will grant this request to meet on Monday to further discuss these issues for the greater good of our entire community.

Respectfully Signed,

Tara Parrish
Pioneer Valley Project
Springfield, MA

Adam Gomez
Springfield City Councilor
Ward 1

Jesse Lederman
Arise for Social Justice
Springfield, MA

Bishop Talbert Swan
President, Springfield, MA NAACP

Bishop Douglas Fisher
Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts
Springfield, MA

Dr. Zubair Kareem
President, Islamic Society of Western Massachusetts

Jafet Robles
Neighbor to Neighbor
Springfield, MA

Katheryn Buckley-Brawner
Catholic Charities Agency
Springfield, MA

Aleandro Mirabal
Co-Owner
Food Zone International Supermarket
Springfield, MA

Fiore Grassetti
President, Pioneer Valley Central Labor Council
Springfield, MA

Attorney Billy Peard
Pioneer Valley Workers Center

Attorney Harris Freeman
Western New England University Law Professor

Rose Bookbinder
Massachusetts Jobs with Justice

Amber Cano Martin
1199 SEIU

Springfield Ward 6 Democratic Committee
2 Veterans Way
Springfield, MA 01108

January 28, 2017

The Honorable Domenic J. Sarno
City Hall
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Dear Mayor Sarno:

On January 28, 2017, the Democratic Ward Committee of Ward 6 in Springfield voted to urge you to declare Springfield a sanctuary city (see attached resolve).

We did not come to this decision lightly or impetuously. We know, on the one hand, that Springfield does not actively engage with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to round up and deport our undocumented neighbors. On the other hand, you have declared your intention to not formally call Springfield a sanctuary city.

As the events of the past four days have proven, these are not ordinary times. President Donald Trump's effective Muslim ban and pugnacious attitude toward Mexicans seem only the beginning and not the end. It is crucial to us as Democrats and for Springfield as an immigrant city to reassure our residents, our neighbors that they are welcome and they are safe within their community.

In short, the declaration itself goes beyond the substance of the policy. It is an embrace of our values in a time when they are being tested like any other time since the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. Senator Edward Kennedy championed that law which more fully opened America's Golden Door and banished, among other things, bigoted Coolidge-era quotas—which at the time fell hard on the boogymen of the day, southern and eastern European immigrants.

We recognize the potential legal implications. While this committee thinks the financial impact of withheld federal monies is worth the risk, we also doubt the Trump administration will retaliate successfully. Just as importantly, if you bring Springfield onto the right side of this fight, we will have powerful allies such as Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey and Boston Mayor Martin Walsh.

As your neighbor, the Ward 6 Committee ask that you and the city stand with *all* our neighbors. If Springfield stands with its vulnerable residents, we are confident Springfield will not stand alone.

Sincerely

The Members of the Springfield Ward 6 Democratic Committee

cc: Springfield City Council President Orlando Ramos
Springfield City Council



DEMOCRATIC WARD COMMITTEE OF WARD 6 SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 28, 2017

Whereas the Ward 6 Democratic Committee expresses the sense that the actions taken by President Donald Trump are anathema to American values; and

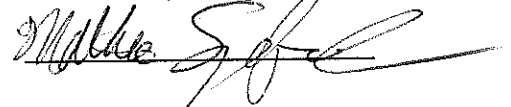
Whereas immigration of all stripes has been a critical part of the history, culture and complexion of the United States; and

Whereas the policy of mass deportation and rounding up undocumented immigrants is cruel and inhumane, disruptive to the economy and counterproductive to the provision of public safety; and

Whereas Mayor Domenic Sarno has declared that the City of Springfield is not a Sanctuary City;

Therefore, be it resolved by the **Ward 6 Democratic Committee**, here assembled on **January 28, 2017**, that Springfield should be **declared a sanctuary city**, welcoming to all immigrants and not utilize its resources for the enforcement of immigration laws except for those accused of committing violent crime.

Attest, Acting Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Sarno", written over a horizontal line.