



CITY COUNCIL 345 6th Street, Suite 100, Bremerton, WA 98337 ☐ Phone (360) 473-5280

February 10, 2025

To the Residents of Bremerton,

The Bremerton City Council reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the principles outlined in Resolution No. 3316 (attached), which declares our dedication to the protection of fundamental rights for all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, country of origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious beliefs.

As a City, we remain steadfast in our rejection of discrimination, bigotry, and any ideology that promotes hatred or division. Our commitment to ensuring that all individuals feel safe in accessing city services and interacting with local law enforcement remains unchanged. Consistent with longstanding policy, the Bremerton Police Department does not participate in direct immigration enforcement and does not inquire about a person's immigration status except in rare circumstances explicitly required by state or federal law. A full copy of the current Bremerton Police Department policy on immigration is also attached for reference.

We stand by the values of fairness, dignity, and equal opportunity for all who call Bremerton home. Through our policies and actions, we will continue working to improve the quality of life for every resident and ensure our community remains welcoming.

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of community members, organizations, and city employees who uphold these values every day. The City Council remains committed to listening, learning, and taking action to foster a more just and welcoming Bremerton.

Sincerely,

Eric Younger

Council President, District 7

Jane Rebelowski

Council Vice President, District 4

Jennifer Chamberlin

Council Member, District 1

Denise Frey

Council Member, District 2

Jeff Coughlin

Council Member, District 3

Michael Goodnow

Council Member, District 5

Anna Mockler

Council Member, District 6

RESOLUTION NO. 3316

A **RESOLUTION** of the City Council of the City of Bremerton, Washington, affirming the City's commitment to the principles of equity and inclusion and will continue to implement practices that seek to improve opportunities and quality of life for all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, country of origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious beliefs.

WHEREAS, recently flyers were posted throughout the City promoting the website of a known white supremacist group; and

WHEREAS, immigration status is enforced under Federal law, but community concerns have been brought to the City Council's attention regarding potential local enforcement of immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, City services are to be provided to all residents who so qualify and City employees shall not ask for immigration status from a resident in providing a service, unless they are required to do so by state or federal law.

WHEREAS, since 2014, the City of Bremerton Police Department has had a policy of non-participation in direct immigration enforcement and does not inquire as to an individual's immigration status or require documentation of citizenship as outlined in Policy 428 of the Bremerton Police Department Manual; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wholly rejects the promotion of any regressive ideologies that promote discrimination, bigotry, hatred, and violence; and the City Council supports the purpose outlined in the Bremerton Police Policy Manual, that all individuals, regardless of their immigration status, must feel secure that contacting law enforcement will not make them vulnerable to deportation; NOW THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREMERTON, WASHINGTON,
DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby affirms the City's commitment to the principles of equity and inclusion and will continue to implement practices that seek to improve opportunities and quality of life for all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, country of origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious beliefs.

SECTION 2. Severability. If any one or more sections, subsections, or sentences of this Resolution are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Resolution and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Bremerton, Washington this 20th day of February, 2019.



ERIC YOUNGER, Council President

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



ROGER A. LUBOVICH, City Attorney

ATTEST:



ANGELA WOODS, City Clerk

Immigration Violations

426.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to members of the Bremerton Police Department relating to immigration laws and interacting with federal immigration officials (RCW 43.10.315).

426.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Bremerton Police Department that all members make personal and professional commitments to equal enforcement of the law and equal service to the public. Confidence in this commitment will increase the effectiveness of this department in protecting and serving the entire community and recognizing the dignity of all persons, regardless of their national origin or immigration status.

426.3 VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

To encourage crime reporting and cooperation in the investigation of criminal activity, all individuals, regardless of their immigration status, must feel secure that contacting or being addressed by members of law enforcement will not automatically lead to immigration inquiry and/or deportation. While it may be necessary to determine the identity of a victim or witness, members shall treat all individuals equally and not in any way that would violate the United States or Washington constitutions.

426.3.1 BASIS FOR CONTACT

Unless immigration status is relevant to another criminal offense or investigation (e.g., harboring, smuggling, terrorism), the fact that an individual is suspected of being an undocumented alien shall not be the sole basis for contact, detention or arrest.

426.3.2 SWEEPS

The Bremerton Police Department does not independently conduct sweeps or other concentrated efforts to detain suspected undocumented aliens.

When enforcement efforts are increased in a particular area, equal consideration should be given to all suspected violations and not just those affecting a particular race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status or other group.

The disposition of each contact (e.g., warning, citation, arrest), while discretionary in each case, should not be affected by such factors as race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion or socioeconomic status.

426.3.3 ICE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

If a specific request is made by ICE or any other federal agency, this Department will provide available support services, such as traffic control or peacekeeping efforts, during the federal operation.

Employees of this Department should not participate in such federal operations as part of any detention team unless it is in direct response to a request for assistance on a temporary basis

Bremerton Police Department

Bremerton PD Policy Manual

Immigration Violations

or for officer safety. Any detention by an employee of this Department should be based upon the reasonable belief that an individual is involved in criminal activity.

426.3.4 IDENTIFICATION

Whenever any individual is reasonably suspected of a criminal violation (infraction, misdemeanor, or felony), the investigating officer should take reasonable steps to determine the person's identity through valid identification or other reliable sources. If an individual would have otherwise been released for an infraction or misdemeanor on a citation, the person should be given a reasonable opportunity to verify his/her true identity. If the person's identity is thereafter reasonably established, the original citation release should be completed without consideration of immigration status.

426.3.5 ARREST

If the officer intends to take enforcement action and the individual is unable to reasonably establish his/her true identity, the officer may take the person into custody on the suspected criminal violation (RCW 10.31.100).

426.3.6 BOOKING

If the officer is unable to reasonably establish an arrestee's identity, the individual may be booked into jail for the suspected criminal violation and held for bail.

Any person detained for an infraction pursuant to the authority of RCW 46.61.021, may be detained for a reasonable period for the purpose of determining the person's true identity.

426.4 WASHINGTON STATE IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS

Members shall not (RCW 10.93.160):

- (a) Inquire into or collect information about an individual's immigration or citizenship status, or place of birth unless there is a connection between such information and an investigation into a violation of state or local criminal law.
- (b) Provide information pursuant to notification requests from federal immigration authorities for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement, except as required by law.
- (c) Provide nonpublicly available personal information about an individual to federal immigration authorities in a noncriminal matter, except as required by state or federal law.
- (d) Give federal immigration authorities access to interview individuals about a noncriminal matter while they are in custody, except as required by state or federal law, a court order, or written consent of the individual.
- (e) Allow a federal immigration authority to conduct an interview regarding federal immigration violations with a person who is in custody if the person has not consented in writing to be interviewed. In order to obtain consent, the person shall be provided with an oral explanation and a written consent form that explains the purpose of the interview, that the interview is voluntary, and that the person may decline to be interviewed or may choose to be interviewed only with the person's attorney present.

Bremerton Police Department

Bremerton PD Policy Manual

Immigration Violations

- (f) Detain individuals solely for the purpose of determining their immigration status.
- (g) Take a person into custody or hold a person in custody:
 - 1. Solely for the purposes of determining immigration status
 - 2. Based solely on a civil immigration warrant issued by a federal immigration authority
 - 3. On an immigration hold request

426.4.1 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Members who are school resource officers shall not (RCW 10.93.160):

- (a) Inquire or collect information about an individual's immigration or citizenship status, or place of birth.
- (b) Provide information pursuant to notification requests from federal immigration officials for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement, except as required by law.