



January 14, 2026

## Statement from the City of Binghamton Human Rights Commission on ICE

On December 17, 2025, the Binghamton City Council unanimously passed Resolution R25-73, which prohibits the use of city funds, resources, and personnel for federal immigration purposes, including collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This law comes amidst an increasingly hostile environment across the United States in which immigrants are being racially profiled, harassed, detained and deported, and in many cases, physically assaulted, sometimes fatally. According to the National Immigration Law Center, ICE officers have shot at least nine people in the last five months, including the widely publicized shooting death of local activist Renee Good, an American born citizen who leaves behind a widow and three children, on January 7, 2026 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The City of Binghamton Human Rights Commission supports City Council efforts to protect Binghamton residents from this federal campaign against new Americans, many of whom are here legally and have no criminal record. Indeed, the facts of this deportation campaign undermine the official government narrative that only the “worst of the worst” are being targeted. According to the Guardian, as of December 2025, more than 68,400 people are being held in detention facilities, a record high, with those who have no criminal record far surpassing the number of detainees with a criminal record.

Regardless of criminal status and legal status, everyone has the right to due process and to be treated with basic human dignity and respect. The many images and videos of masked immigration officers stopping people on the street based on the color of their skin, attempting to unlawfully enter homes without judicial warrants, smashing windows to drag people from their cars, and indiscriminately assaulting both individuals suspected of being here unlawfully, many times without proof, and American citizens documenting these crimes are incontrovertible evidence of this escalating process of dehumanization against our nation’s newest residents.

Concerningly, the terrorization of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants is being expanded to include state and local law enforcement agencies who are being incentivized to collaborate with ICE through their 287(g) program. This blurring of local law enforcement’s role in federal immigration enforcement represents a disturbing enmeshment of ICE into local communities that choose to opt into this program.



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While the recent passage of Resolution R25-73 prohibits the Binghamton Police Department from opting into this program, this law does not prevent collusion at the county level. In March 2025, the Broome County Sheriff's Office opted into portions of the 287(g) program, specifically the Warrant Service Officer Program that allows Broome County Correctional Facility officers to administer criminal warrants to immigrants who might be here illegally. Aside from this, the Broome County Correctional Facility has served as a transit point for detained individuals from other cities who are en route to being deported.

The City of Binghamton is proud to call itself home to a diverse population. According to July 2024 population estimates from the Census Bureau, approximately 10.6% of our city's population come from other countries, which is indicative of the support and care our city provides to individuals seeking a better life for themselves and their families. The Human Rights Commission shares community concerns that ICE's presence in Binghamton, whether on their own street enforcement patrols or through the Sheriff's office, puts these valued members of our community at risk.

The City of Binghamton Human Rights Commission was established under the City Charter Chapter 45a "to condemn discrimination in all its forms, to educate the public, and to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against people" with a duty "[t]o foster mutual respect and understanding among all groups as set forth in Chapter 45, Binghamton Human Rights Law, veteran status, and those with prior criminal convictions."

As such, and in recognition of the dangers of targeting individuals based on their identities and purported legal status, the City of Binghamton Human Rights Commission condemns this crusade against refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants that, rather than making our communities safer, serves to only foment fear, discord, and polarization, and inflames identity-based divides that put our most vulnerable community members at further risk.

The City of Binghamton Human Rights Commission remains committed to leveraging our capacities to stay vigilant, continuing to monitor these federal policies and their local impacts, and to promoting social cohesion in the Binghamton community as a vital safeguard against identity-based violence.

