



To: Board of Library Trustees

From: Anthony Auston, Director

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Re: Resolution 2025/26-224 regarding civil immigration enforcement

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In early 2025, area libraries and their legal advisors began preparing procedures, documentation, and training for a new frontier in our industry: potential immigration and customs enforcement on public library grounds.

Libraries have long been considered a “sensitive location,” like institutions of learning, healthcare facilities, places of worship, places where children gather, and social service establishments, where immigration officers have historically operated under a policy that restricted immigration enforcement, including arrests, searches, and surveillance. However, one of the first actions of the current federal administration was to repeal the protected areas policies and guidance on sensitive locations, and as has been seen in the media recently, immigration enforcement is not refraining from taking threatening action at sites that were previously considered sensitive locations.

Public libraries serve as safe and welcoming spaces where everyone, regardless of race or national origin, enjoys open access to enriching resources including technology tools, skill development, language learning, job search assistance, civic literacy and citizenship programs, and community engagement opportunities. As a result of these services, libraries support economic mobility, social integration, and civic participation for everyone, including immigrants and their families. Ensuring equitable and consistent access to the library and its mission-based resources is rooted in our professional ethics and strengthens our communities as a whole.

In early September, federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and the National Guard were deployed in the Chicago region for a coordinated mass deportation campaign dubbed Operation Midway Blitz. Activities of this campaign are well-documented by eye-witnesses and news reporting, including articles in our local Record North Shore reporting on enforcement activities in the Wilmette community in late October and early November, including areas immediately adjacent to the library.

Testimonials from individuals in our community and neighborhood have been shared peer to peer, via social networks, and in public comments at local governing board meetings, and reflect the terror and trauma reported throughout the Chicagoland region these past weeks. The tenor of these stories also reflects the experiences of regular library users and their families, as well as the disruption of operations and impact to services that this campaign has brought to the library and its staff – even though no immigration enforcement activity has taken place on library grounds. These reports and conditions are not normal for our community and country, and are seriously concerning to the constitutional rights of all people.

On November 12, the Village of Wilmette passed Ordinance No. 2025-O-92, An Ordinance in Response to Operation Midway Blitz, reinforcing that building and maintaining a community that treats all persons, whether citizens, documented immigrants or not, with respect and dignity is in line with the public policy of the Village and the principles upon which the United States was founded; that immigrant community members, whether citizens, documented immigrants or not, should be treated with respect and dignity by all Village employees and be provided Village services; calling upon the federal government to never infringe upon any individual's rights or privileges conferred upon them by the United States Constitution including but not limited to the use of racial profiling when conducting civil immigration enforcement operations, and the right of people to peacefully assemble and otherwise engage in free speech; and resolved to define and adopt regulations limiting the extent of any federal agent to conduct any civil immigration enforcement operations on Village property.

Wilmette Public Library District is a distinct unit of local government, governed by state statutes and local policies. Without statewide policy or guidance specific to immigration enforcement on our own grounds, library districts must take independent measures to uphold our mission, vision, and professional ethics for the communities we serve.

The library has drafted "Resolution No. 2025/26-224: Resolution Prohibiting the Use of Library Parking Lots, Grounds and Resources for Civil Immigration Enforcement Staging Areas, Processing Locations, and/or Operations Bases" to establish clear expectations for library visitors and staff within the district's legal means. The resolution references and aligns with the Village's ordinance in an effort to help ensure that our spaces remain safe, trusted, welcoming centers for people of all backgrounds, including immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, newcomers, and undocumented residents, where all individuals may use library resources, attend programs, and access services without disruption and threat from immigration enforcement.

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
WILMETTE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT  
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**RESOLUTION 2025/26-224**

**RESOLUTION PROHIBITING THE USE OF LIBRARY PARKING LOTS, GROUNDS  
AND RESOURCES FOR CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT STAGING AREAS,  
PROCESSING LOCATIONS, OR OPERATIONS BASES**

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmette Public Library District ("Library") is a Library District established under the Illinois Library District Act of 1991 (75 ILCS 16/et seq.); and

**WHEREAS**, the Library's mission is welcome everyone with collections, resources, and experiences that enrich the lives of individuals and our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Library Trustees of the Wilmette Public Library District are committed to respecting and ensuring the safety, dignity, and human rights of all residents, regardless of race, religion, immigration status, or national origin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Wilmette has passed Ordinance No. 2025-O-92, An Ordinance in Response to Operation Midway Blitz, reinforcing that building and maintaining a community that treats all persons, whether citizens, documented immigrants or not, with respect and dignity is in line with the public policy of the Village and the principles upon which the United States was founded; that immigrant community members, whether citizens, documented immigrants or not, should be treated with respect and dignity by all Village employees and be provided Village services; calling upon the federal government to never infringe upon any individual's rights or privileges conferred upon them by the United States Constitution including but not limited to the use of racial profiling when conducting civil immigration enforcement operations, and the right of people to peacefully assemble and otherwise engage in free speech; and resolved to define and adopt regulations limiting the extent of any federal agent to conduct any civil immigration enforcement operations on Village property; and

**WHEREAS**, the unauthorized use of the Library's parking lots, grounds and resources ("Grounds and Resources") to facilitate civil immigration enforcement actions interferes with Wilmette Public Library District's authority over, and its use of, its own resources, property, and personnel and is inconsistent with the Library's mission, values, and goals.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF THE WILMETTE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Prohibition on Use of Library-owned Grounds and Resources**

No Library-owned and controlled Grounds and Resources shall be used as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for civil immigration enforcement.

For purposes of this resolution, "staging area" means an area that is used to assemble, mobilize, and deploy vehicles, equipment, or materials, and related personnel, for the purpose of carrying out civil immigration enforcement operations.

## **Section 2. Implementation and Enforcement.**

The Board of Library Trustees shall identify Library-owned and controlled Grounds and Resources that either have been used, or are likely to be used in the future, as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement. The Library shall ensure that all such properties have clear signage stating:

**This property is owned and controlled by Wilmette Public Library District.  
It may not be used for civil immigration enforcement as a:  
Staging Area, Processing Location, or Operations Base.**

The Library will contact local law enforcement to enforce this resolution in the event anyone uses or attempts to use Library Grounds and Resources as a staging area, processing location, or operations base, or in any other like-kind manner that is inconsistent with the Library's mission, values, and goals.

## **Section 3. Scope.**

This resolution does not apply to property that is subject to an existing lease or concession agreement to which the Library is a party. This resolution is not intended to, and shall not be interpreted to, interfere with any such lease or agreement.

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as restricting or interfering with the execution of lawful judicial warrants or the enforcement of criminal law, nor as limiting the rights of any person or entity under state or federal law.

This resolution does not prohibit the lawful use of Library-owned Grounds and Resources for purposes other than a staging area, processing location, or operations base for civil immigration enforcement, nor does it restrict any person or entity from carrying out functions unrelated to those purposes on such property which are consistent with the Library's mission to welcome everyone with collections, resources, and experiences that enrich the lives of individuals and our community.

## **Section 4. Effective Date**

This Resolution will take effect upon its passage by the Board of Library Trustees of the Wilmette Public Library District.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Library Trustees of the Wilmette Public Library District that this Resolution 2025/26-224 prohibiting the unauthorized use of Library Grounds for civil immigration enforcement staging areas, processing locations, or operations bases in hereby adopted.

**PASSED** by the Board on November 18, 2025 pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

**AYES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAYS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ABSENT/ ABSTAIN:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Joan Fishman, President  
Board of Library Trustees  
Wilmette Public Library District

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Maria Di Lorenzo, Secretary  
Board of Library Trustees  
Wilmette Public Library District