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## Reject any involvement of the Metropolitan Police with the Federal “Secure Communities” program

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Mayor, and the Metropolitan Police Department, to reject any involvement with the Federal "Secure Communities" program.

Why: Effective police work requires the cooperation of the community with the police. Crimes are solved most frequently by means of people in the neighborhood coming forward with information, not by fancy forensics. The police must be viewed as legitimate protectors of the population, not as an outside force hostile to the residents. This essential legitimacy has been hard enough to develop in the immigrant communities, as many immigrants come from countries where the police are not trustworthy. In Mount Pleasant, the growing sense that the police are the friends and protectors of immigrant residents has come about because the Metropolitan Police, to their credit, have given assurance that they will not press residents for their immigration status, and will not become immigration enforcers in neighborhoods of immigrants.

That gain in police legitimacy is seriously threatened by the partnership of the Metropolitan Police with the Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE). Despite the stringent limits on this partnership specified by the District Government, there remains the possibility that a person arrested, but innocent of any crime, will be delivered by the District to ICE. The stated purpose of the program is to identify criminal aliens, but there is no requirement that an arrested person be convicted of any crime, nor that the FBI investigation turn up any contrary evidence, for the identity of that person to be handed over to ICE. The sole purpose of the ICE investigation is to identify unauthorized aliens, not to identify criminals.

This connection with ICE, limited as it may be, will be perceived by many in the immigrant communities as the Metropolitan Police becoming agents of the Federal immigration authorities. This collaboration with ICE will, as the National Immigration Forum says, "undermine public safety by making immigrants afraid to report crimes or assist in investigations".

The duty of the Metropolitan Police is to maximize public safety, and any activities that compromise that primary obligation are to be avoided. This partnership with ICE will decrease public safety, impairing the ability of the police to solve actual crimes and capture actual criminals, in a misguided effort to identify unauthorized aliens. The priority of the police must be the protection of the public from crime and criminals, not from the presence of unauthorized aliens.

*Passed by 6 to 0 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on March 16, 2010, with a quorum present. Voting “yes”: Commissioners Edwards, Tunda, Scott, Lepanto, Bosserman, McKay.*