

AGENDA

1. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION CALLED TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL: Blackledge, Greenberg, Parisian, Mayor Sutton
3. DISCUSSION
 - A. Consider Separation Ordinance
 - B. Hennepin County Planning Grant Opportunity Focused on Downtown Vitality
4. STAFF UPDATES
 - A. Staff Updates
5. COUNCIL UPDATES
6. ADJOURNMENT



TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: January 13, 2026
RE: Consider Separation Ordinance

Background:

On Friday, January 9th, staff was provided with a DRAFT ordinance (attached) the City of Minneapolis is considering.

Analysis:

The overall intent (as understood) is to capture and give guidance on policy related to local and federal agency communication and, ultimately, enforcement. The DRAFT continues to outline responsibilities related to City services, employee responsibilities, and more comprehensive policies and procedures. Further, the DRAFT ordinance considers access to City property and governance of City Public Safety resources.

At the time of publishing the packet, staff was not prepared to offer formal recommendations or considerations; however, the City Manager will work with the City Attorney to create a formal response that will be made available to the Council and general public prior to the Work Session.

Recommendation:

Consider attached DRAFT resolution.

Attachments:

1. Revised Separation Ordinance - City of MPLS

ORDINANCE
By Chavez, Chughtai, and Chowdhury

Amending Title 2, Chapter 19 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Administration: Employee Authority in Immigration Matters.

The City Council of the City of Minneapolis do ordain as follows:

Section 1. That Sections 19.10 through 19.60 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

19.10. Purpose and policy statement. This chapter clarifies the communication and enforcement relationship between the city and the federal government including the United States Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies with respect to ~~the enforcement of civil immigration laws~~ any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of (collectively, “enforce”) any federal civil immigration law and any federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a person's presence in, entry, or reentry to, or employment in, the United States, when not accompanied by other criminal conduct (collectively, “federal immigration laws”). The city works cooperatively with the Homeland Security, as it does with all state and federal agencies, but the city does not operate its programs for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws. This chapter is necessary for the protection of the city’s public peace, health, and safety.

The city is home to persons of diverse racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds, including a large immigrant and refugee population. All Minneapolis residents, whether they are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, undocumented residents, refugees, asylum seekers, or residents with any other immigration status, are valued and integral members of our social, cultural, and economic fabric. Many immigrants have created deep ties in Minneapolis, which they have cultivated for themselves, their families, and their communities. The city is committed to building a welcoming and respectful atmosphere where all people are welcomed and accepted. In furtherance of that commitment, the city respects, upholds, and values equal protection and equal treatment for all residents.

The city formally prioritizes using its finite resources to advance the health and safety of its residents. If city personnel were to enforce federal ~~civil~~ immigration laws for the federal government, it would squander limited municipal resources, have deleterious effects on public safety, and have a chilling effect on immigrant populations’ willingness to report crime and cooperate with the city’s public safety efforts. Additionally, public safety and accountability are supported when public safety officers have clear agency identification and do not hide their identities when interacting with the public, unless they are in an undercover role. Enforcing federal ~~civil~~ immigration laws alongside federal agents who lack clear agency identification and/or who are masked or otherwise concealing their identities or badges would be contrary to the values of the city and harmful to the trust and public safety of city residents.

The ~~Homeland Security~~ Although the federal government has the legal authority to enforce immigration laws in the United States, in Minnesota, and in the city, the city will not act or operate its programs for the purpose of enforcing ~~civil federal~~ immigration laws. Additionally, it is the policy of the city to vigorously oppose any effort to require the use of city resources for the enforcement of ~~civil federal~~ immigration laws. These statements of policy, and those set forth in this chapter, are based on the fact that the city is safer, healthier, and more vibrant when city personnel maintain a relationship of trust, respect, and

cooperation with city residents. This trust, respect, and cooperation would be destroyed, especially for immigrant communities, if city personnel were to act as agents of federal immigration authorities.

This chapter ordinance shall be the only regulation within the city on this subject matter, and it shall supersede all conflicting policies, ordinances, rules, procedures and practices.

19.20. General city services. (a) To the extent permitted by law, in determining eligibility for, and providing general city services, city employees shall be governed by the following requirements:

(1) City employees are to carry out their regular duties for the purpose of administering general city services and programs. Employees may complete I-9 forms, may question a person regarding the I-9 form and documents supporting the I-9 form, and may allow Homeland Security comply with demands by the Federal Government to audit the I-9 forms as allowed by law. Employees shall, when required by law, comply with any properly issued judicial subpoena or other compulsory legal process for the production of documents or witnesses, even if related to immigration issues or issues of the Homeland Security.

(2) City employees shall follow general city, state and federal guidelines to assess eligibility for services. City employees shall only solicit immigration information or inquire about immigration status when specifically required to do so by law or program guidelines as a condition of eligibility for the service sought. City employees may require evidence of a person's identity and may ask to see a person's personal identifying documents only when specifically authorized and required to do so by the employee's work duties. City employees shall not discriminate against any current or potential service users on the basis of any of the protected categories listed in the city's civil rights ordinance (139.40), or on the basis of immigration status.

(3) Other than complying with lawful subpoenas when required by law, city employees, and representatives, and contractors shall not use city resources city facilities, property, moneys, equipment, data, technology (e.g. license plate recognition, surveillance video, computers) ("city resources"), or city personnel solely for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is or may be being undocumented, being out of status, or illegally residing in the United States (collectively "undocumented") enforcing federal immigration laws. This includes, but is not limited to, using city resources to set up a perimeter or otherwise control public areas for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws. Data subject to 8 U.S.C. §§ 1373 and 1644 are exempt from this provision.

(4) Where presentation of a Minnesota driver's license is customarily accepted as adequate evidence of identity, presentation of a photo identity document issued by the person's nation of origin, such as a driver's license, passport, or matricula consular (consulate-issued document) shall be accepted and shall not subject the person to a higher level of scrutiny or different treatment than if the person had provided a Minnesota driver's license. This paragraph does not apply to I-9 forms.

(5) The city shall provide information and training in new employee training and on-going training regarding the expectations set forth in this chapter. The city must review the training for potential updates. The training must at a minimum address the following:

a. This ordinance chapter and related city policies and procedures;

b. The difference between administrative and judicial warrants;

c. The difference between public and non-public city spaces including access limitations to non-public city spaces;

d. Guidance on responding to inquiries or actions by federal immigration authorities including requests for information regarding city employees or members of the public and requests to access city property or city-sponsored events;

e. The process for rapidly contacting appropriate city officials in urgent situations; and

f. Training for supervisors and managers on their responsibilities; and

g. Information on how and where employees can access relevant city resources and additional learning materials.

(b) General city services defined. General city services shall mean all city services excepting those services specifically listed as public safety services in section 19.30.

(c) City attorney's office - civil division employees may investigate and inquire about immigration status when relevant to potential or actual litigation or an administrative proceeding.

19.25. Access to city property. (a) City-owned or city-controlled parking lots, ramps, vacant lots, and garages are not open to the general public without restrictions. No federal, state, or local government entity or personnel is authorized to use any city-owned or city-controlled parking lot or ramp, vacant lot, or garage as a staging area, processing location, operations base, or any other similar use for enforcing federal immigration laws. "Staging area" means an area that is used to assemble, mobilize, and/or deploy vehicles, equipment, or materials, and related personnel, for the purpose of carrying out operations for the enforcement of federal immigration laws. Such spaces are not available to the general public for similar activities, and federal, state, or local government entities or personnel will not receive special or enhanced access to city property for operations enforcing federal immigration laws.

(b) The city restricts access to non-public city spaces. Non-public city spaces are areas owned or controlled by the city that are not accessible to the general public. Examples of non-public city spaces include restricted areas requiring badge access, breakrooms, workstations (including those in an open area if the general public is not permitted in the workstation), storage closets, and employee-only areas. Non-public city spaces are not open for the purposes of enforcement of federal immigration laws except with a judicial warrant or when access is otherwise required by law. City employees do not have the legal authority to consent to permit access to non-public city spaces in situations where a judicial warrant or other legal obligation would otherwise be necessary to gain access.

(c) This section is not intended to and shall not be construed to interfere with the city's compliance with the terms of any contract in effect as of the effective date of this section to which the city is a party. This section does not apply to property owned by the federal government and operated by or leased to the city.

This section shall not be construed as restricting or interfering with the execution of court orders or judicial warrants, or the enforcement of criminal law, nor as limiting the rights of any person or entity under state or federal law.

19.30. Public safety services. ~~(a)~~ To the extent permitted by law, in providing public safety services, employees of the police and fire departments, and the city attorney's office - criminal division, (collectively, public safety officials), shall be governed by the following requirements:

(1) Public safety officials shall not undertake any law enforcement action for the purpose of detecting the presence of undocumented persons, enforcing federal immigration laws, or to verify immigration status, including but not limited to questioning any person or persons about their immigration status.

(2) City attorney's office - criminal division employees shall be permitted to:

a. Inform persons of the possible immigration consequences of a guilty plea.

b. Question and conduct cross-examination of a witness or defendant regarding immigration status.

c. Inquire about immigration status for purposes of bail or conditional release for the purposes of victim protection or the provision of public safety.

d. Investigate and inquire about immigration status when relevant to the potential or actual prosecution of the case or when immigration status is an element of the crime being prosecuted by the City of Minneapolis on behalf of the State of Minnesota.

e. Take immigration status and collateral effects of possible deportation into consideration during discussions held for the purpose of case resolution.

(3) Public safety officials shall not question, arrest, or detain any person for ~~violations of the purpose of enforcing federal~~ civil immigration laws ~~except when immigration status is an element of the crime or when enforcing 8 U.S.C. 1324(e),~~ including, but not limited to, through traffic stops or the creation of or participation in checkpoints.

(4) The city shall not enter into an agreement, under Section 1357(g) of Title 8 of the United States Code (287g agreement) or any other provision of federal law, to participate in the enforcement of federal civil immigration laws.

~~(4)~~ (5) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit public safety personnel from assisting federal law enforcement officers in the investigation of criminal activity involving individuals present in the United States who may also be in violation of federal civil immigration laws.

~~(b) All such use of city public safety personnel under 19.30(a)(3) and (a)(4) shall be documented, including any applicable Department of Homeland Security mission statement and operational guidelines, the reason for the dispatch of personnel, the name of the homeland security agent in charge, and the name of the officer authorizing the use of city personnel.~~

19.40. Public safety reporting. (a) For any use of city public safety personnel under section 19.30(5), in which public safety personnel are aware that the subject of the investigation may also be in violation of federal immigration laws, the administration must report the following information to the mayor and to the city council at the city council's next scheduled regular meeting and made available on the city's public-facing website. The report must contain the following information:

(1) The source of the initiation of the use of city public safety personnel including but not limited to requests by a federal agency or officer; city department, office, or organization; or a 311 or 911 report;

(2) The decision-making process which led to the use of city public safety personnel;

(3) The date and time of the start and end of the use of city public safety personnel;

(4) A clear timeline of the use of city public safety personnel;

(5) The number of city public safety personnel present and total hours spent as part of the use of city public safety personnel;

(6) The number of any arrests made by city public safety personnel and the rationale for those arrests; and

(7) The cost to the city of the involvement or assistance by city public safety personnel, including, but not limited to the costs associated with the following categories:

a. The number of city public safety personnel present and total hours spent as part of the involvement or assistance;

b. Any overtime costs incurred as part of the involvement or assistance, including a methodology on how overtime hours were calculated; and

c. Any additional costs such as the use of any specialized equipment.

(b) For any use of city public safety personnel to assist any federal law enforcement agency with crowd control, a report must be made in the same timing, manner, and content as a report under section 19.40(a).

(c) For any use of city public safety personnel to assist any federal law enforcement agency where federal law enforcement agents who are not acting in an undercover role are masked, do not have clear agency identification, and/or are otherwise hiding their identities when interacting with the public are hiding their identities when interacting with the public, for example masking, while not having clear agency identification displayed, a report must be made in the same timing, manner, and content as a report under section 19.40(a).

(d) When the administration becomes aware of an ongoing action to enforce federal immigration laws in Minneapolis, it must provide information to the city council as soon as possible.

(d) (e) Except as otherwise expressly provided in this section, no report required by this section may contain personally identifiable information.

(e) (f) No information that is otherwise required to be reported under this section may be reported in a manner that would violate any applicable federal, state, or local law or regulation relating to the data privacy and classification of information, including the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

(f) (g) The city must preserve all data necessary to make the reports under this section for at least twelve (12) months after the report is made to the city council.

19.40 19.50. Complaints and discipline. (a) Complaints of a violation of this chapter shall be subject to disciplinary action under the appropriate union contract, civil service commission rules, or department work rules. ~~It shall not be a violation of this chapter to require the completion of I-9 forms or to inquire into or disclose the immigration status of the complainant or witnesses if necessary as part of the investigation of a complaint of a violation of this chapter, or if deemed necessary by the appointing authority in order to administer discipline for such violations.~~ Summary data on the number and disposition of complaints must be reported to the city council by June 30 and December 31 of each year.

(b) If a complaint is filed with the city alleging a violation of this chapter, in the course of investigating the alleged violation, no complainant or witness shall be compelled by the city investigating authority to provide their immigration status.

(c) The city must preserve all data relating to complaints under this section for at least twelve (12) months after the complaint is closed.

(d) The administration must ensure there is a mechanism for the public to report alleged violations of this chapter by employees.

19.50. Subpoena 19.60. Compliance with federal law. ~~Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to violate any valid federal law, or to prohibit any city department or employee from complying with 8 U.S.C. § 1373. Nothing in this chapter prohibits city employees from responding to a properly issued subpoena. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to violate federal law. The City and its departments and employees will comply with federal law including 8 U.S.C. §§ 1373 & 1644.~~

19.70. Subpoena or other legal obligation. Nothing in this chapter prohibits city employees from responding to a properly issued judicial subpoena, other compulsory legal process, or a data request when and to the extent that a response is required by law.

~~19.60~~ **19.80. Certifications for victims of crimes.** (a) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) *Certification request.* A request made by a victim of crime, or the victim's attorney or other appropriate representative, to a city certifying agency for a U Nonimmigrant Status certification or a T Visa Declaration of Law Enforcement Officer for Victim of Trafficking in Persons for persons eligible under 8 U.S.C. §1101(a)(15)(T) and (U) as provided in the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000.

(2) *City certifying agency.* Any city department having legal authority to sign a U Visa Nonimmigrant Status Certification or a T Visa Declaration of Law Enforcement Officer for Victim of Trafficking in Persons, including the Minneapolis Police Department, the city attorney's office and the Civil Rights Department in their respective areas of responsibility for detection, investigation and/or prosecution.

(3) *Investigation or prosecution.* The phrase "investigation and/or prosecution" has the meaning set out in 8 CFR §214.14(a)(5) that includes the detection or investigation of a qualifying crime or criminal activity, as well as the prosecution, conviction, or sentencing of the perpetrator of the qualifying crime or criminal activity.

(b) *Certification process.*

(1) *Standard review.* City certifying agencies shall process certification requests as quickly as reasonably possible. All certification requests shall be processed within thirty (30) days of receipt by the applicable city certifying agency of the request or as soon as reasonably possible thereafter if the processing is delayed by the need to seek off-site records or other good cause.

(2) *Expedited review.* City certifying agencies shall provide for an expedited review process for victims or for qualifying family members of victims who are in removal proceedings, with requests processed within seven (7) days request or as soon as reasonably possible thereafter if the processing is delayed by the need to seek off-site records or other good cause.

(3) City certifying agencies shall make information about the standard and expedited review process readily available to the public in multiple languages and include a link to this information on the city's website.

(4) The head of each city certifying agency shall designate a certifying official who shall be authorized to review, process, and sign certification requests as legally appropriate. The designated certifying official shall exercise sound discretion and judgment and shall review each certification request on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration all relevant facts.

(c) *Certification of helpfulness.* A city certifying agency shall certify the helpfulness of a U-Visa applicant if the applicant possesses information concerning a qualifying criminal activity, and has been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful in the investigation and/or prosecution of the criminal activity as provided in 8 U.S.C. §1101(a)(15)(U). This includes being helpful and providing assistance when reasonably requested. This also includes an ongoing responsibility on the part of the victim to be helpful as noted in 8 C.F.R. §214.14(b)(3). Subject to section ~~19.60(b)(4)~~ 19.70(b)(4) above, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that the victim is likely to be helpful if a victim has not unreasonably refused to cooperate or unreasonably failed to provide information and assistance reasonably requested by law enforcement or prosecution.

(d) *Data privacy.* City certifying agencies shall not disclose personal information of victims obtained through the certification request process except as provided in the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act or as otherwise required by law or court order.

Section 2. That Chapter 19 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances be amended by adding thereto a new Section 19.90 to read as follows:

19.80 19.90. - **No impact on private rights.** Nothing in this chapter in any way limits an individual's rights or remedies under existing laws.



TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Heather Rand, Community Development Director
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: January 13, 2026
RE: Hennepin County Planning Grant Opportunity Focused on Downtown Vitality

Background:

It is customary for city council's to lead the development and redevelopment of land uses in the community with the intent of meeting the needs of residents, businesses and the community at large today, and also with a proactive eye that provides visionary guidance for the city's future land development. To be successful with this endeavor, land use planning initiatives to identify issues, needs, opportunities and solutions should be undertaken by the city council. To mitigate the cost of the planning initiatives, staff have identified the Hennepin County Planning Grant program as a source of funding and wish to discuss this at the upcoming work session.

Analysis:

Municipal land use planning initiatives are most successful when the city's leadership focuses on a geographic area such as downtown, when it utilizes as a starting point the land use guidance contained in the city's most recent comprehensive land plan and other relevant land use planning documents, city code, and then work to incorporate the most current demographic, socio-economic and land parcel data.

Robbinsdale has its 2040 Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2020, and also a Downtown Station Area Plan completed by the city council in December 2023 that contains general recommendations for next steps. Staff suggest the city council resume this planning work in 2026 to drive continued vitality in the Robbinsdale Downtown District.

Over the last couple months, the city's community development staff have been in conversations with Hennepin County Planning and Economic Development staff who funded and participated in the 2023 Downtown Station Area Plan, and with Bolton & Menk Planning Consultants — the professional planning firm that the city hired to lead that 2023 land use planning initiative. The goal of these conversations was to identify the best next steps the city could undertake as a focused land use planning initiative to not only advance the planning work already performed by city leadership, but also update it to reflect current city council and community interests. As a result, Hennepin County staff have indicated initial support for the city to apply for a Hennepin County Planning Grant in February, as such funds could be utilized by the city to hire a planning consultant firm such as Bolton & Menk to support the city in such an endeavor.

Robbinsdale Community Development staff are now seeking preliminary city council input on such a pursuit for 2026 and suggest that the planning deliverables would focus on the following:

Review of Zoning Code:

With development pressures likely to mount as the Blue Line LRT project begins, the City

should review and revise its zoning code to ensure new development supports the overall goals and vision of the Station Area Plan and of a next generation Downtown. This can include provisions for minimum floor area ratios (FAR), max parking requirements, building siting, required building frontages, and other provisions that contribute to a compact and walkable Downtown.

Parking Study and Strategy:

Ideally, parking is easy to find, has appropriate turnover, and is not detrimental to the overall experience of downtown. It needs to be well located, designed, and managed without overwhelming the downtown. An overall parking strategy that takes a comprehensive approach to managing the public parking supply can help attract urban scaled developments that add density while improving the overall pedestrian experience in the downtown.

Leveraging Downtown Properties to Highest and Best Use

The city and county own and control some parcels of land downtown and their land use could be holistically reviewed with an eye to highest and best use. The Downtown Station Area Plan offers initial recommendations for how they can be used to advance goals in the Downtown District. Land use and implementation strategies could be developed to insure the city is utilizing the redevelopment of these parcels as catalysts for positive change in Downtown.

Alignment of Downtown Investments with the CIP

The Downtown Station Area Plan includes several public improvements. Initial work was done to begin including them in the City's CIP. Additional work can be completed to get more accurate cost estimates and coordination with other projects that are anticipated in the near future.

Staff suggest that a 2026 Downtown District planning initiative could be inclusively led by a city council task force that includes city councilors, some planning commissioners, downtown property owners and business representatives, with city staff, county staff and a professional planning consultant team providing support.

City staff would value some informal input as to this concept from city council members at this time.

Recommendation:

Attachments:

None



TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: January 13, 2026
RE: Staff Updates

Background:

Analysis:

Staff will provide updates on the following items:

- Ward 4 Vacancy
- Council Roles/Appointments
 - Specific call out to Mayor Pro Tem
 - Specific call out to CCX/NWSCC Board(s)
- Local Option Sales Tax Resolution - January 20, 2026
- Upcoming Work on PFAS mitigation

Recommendation:

Staff will provide updates, and receive questions, comments, or concerns.

Attachments:

None