



MAYOR CAVALIER JOHNSON
CITY OF MILWAUKEE

March 6, 2026

Dear Members of the Common Council:

I have signed Common Council file numbers 251793 and 251801 that address issues surrounding federal immigration enforcement activities.

First, while I agree with the vast majority of the resolutions and the positions expressed on the Common Council floor, I note my disagreement with a portion of Resolution 251793. While certain actions by leaders and frontline officers of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency are abhorrent, I do not join in calling for the abolition of immigration enforcement.

For example, I believe violent felons who are present in the United States in violation of immigration law ought to be deported. I have been very consistent in my public safety approach of accountability and prevention, and deportation of violent felons is the ultimate accountability. In contrast, immigrants who are not criminals, who have worked hard, who have strengthened our neighborhoods, deserve immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship and for their constitutional rights to be respected.

Second, these files, as resolutions, are largely symbolic. They do not carry the weight of ordinances under our powers to legislate. As they express our shared sentiment that the current federal approach to immigration enforcement is disturbing, I join by signing them.

I will also note that my signatures on file 251793 and file 251801 do not, in any way, make the City of Milwaukee a so-called “Sanctuary City.” Such a designation would bring on significant consequences that would harm residents all across our city – including, potentially, direct harm to the residents Sanctuary City advocates aspire to protect.

Regards,

Cavalier Johnson
Mayor