

## Code Change Fact Sheet

This fact sheet must be attached to any ordinance in Legistar that is proposing to amend Columbus City Codes. It should also be circulated among Councilmember offices prior to submitting an ordinance in Legistar.

It is also a standard practice that Council will not consider any code changes that have not been previously reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's office. Drafters should ensure that the City Attorney's office has approved a final version of a proposed code change prior to circulating this fact sheet to Councilmember offices

### Department Requesting Code Change:

**Drafter:**

Sam Duling

**Ordinance Number:**

0566-2026

**Email and Phone:**

saduling@columbus.gov

### Columbus City Code Title Being Amended/Created/Repealed:

Chapter 155 – City Property and Immigration Enforcement Matters

**What is the overall purpose of this code change?** *Summarize the general themes of the code change(s) and the need for these changes. Please utilize language and descriptors that would be easily understandable by the general public.*

The code prohibits any government personnel from using a parking lot, vacant lot, or garage controlled (operated) by the City of Columbus as a staging area, processing location, operations base, or any other similar use to aid federal immigration law enforcement.

In addition to City-controlled parking lots, vacant lots, or garages, the draft prohibits federal immigration authorities from "semi-restricted" spaces controlled by the City, such as employee-only City facilities and those that require badge access. If federal immigration authorities attempt to enter such spaces, a City employee must request proof of a judicial warrant or other legal instrument proving the authorities' right to enter.

If an employee of the City becomes aware of collaboration with immigration enforcement authorities, the employee is required to report the violation to their department head and/or a human resources representative. Failure to do so may result in investigation and disciplinary action.



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**Why is this code change needed?** *Examples: Correcting a drafting error; bringing code into alignment with changes to state law. For other policy changes, it may be necessary to provide a much more in-depth rationale in the section.*

Columbus City Council believes that no city assets, property, staff, or resources should be utilized in the furtherance of the disruptive nature of the aggressive tactics employed by federal immigration enforcement officers. Furthermore, this code change will provide direction and guidance to city staff with regard to the accessibility of restricted and semi-restricted spaces within city facilities.

**What would be the impact of not adopting this code change?**

Absent this code change, it would remain unclear as to how federal immigration officers can access and utilize certain public spaces as well as how city staff should engage with officers with or without legal authorization.

**Are there any operating or capital budget cost/savings implications for this code change?** *These may be direct or in-direct, and please also consider long-term impact.*

n/a

**Describe the community engagement process regarding this code change. What residents, impacted parties, and constituents may be affected? Have they been engaged, and how so? How was their feedback incorporated (or not incorporated) into this code change?**

Columbus City Council engaged with the City Attorney's office, the Division of Police, and considered feedback and testimony of a variety of interested parties that offered input on the drafting of this code.

**Will this code change take effect with the ordinance, or is there a delayed effective date?**

The code change will be enacted as an emergency.



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