

WELCOMING TOWN DESIGNATION

1. Whereas, Historically Belmont has welcomed immigrants from many regions around the world, including the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America; and
2. Whereas, Immigrants have enriched the fabric of this community, adding new life and great potential to Belmont; and
3. Whereas, Assumptions made about a person's legal status in the United States that are based upon the person's religion, ethnicity, or national origin, and discrimination, harassment, or bullying of people based on those assumptions, have no place in our community.
4. Whereas, National policies that discriminate against immigrants because of religion or country of origin run counter to our values; and
5. Whereas, In some communities, local law enforcement agencies are used to collect and deliver immigration status data to Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"); and
6. Whereas, ICE may issue voluntary information or detainer requests that could subject individuals who are in local custody to prolonged detention; and
7. Whereas, It is believed in some communities that when local law enforcement officials indiscriminately comply with all ICE civil immigration information and detainer requests, including those that target non-criminal undocumented residents, public trust is eroded, immigrants are less likely to cooperate with local law enforcement and are less likely to report serious crimes, thus making the work of local law enforcement more difficult to address serious crimes; and
8. Whereas, The Belmont Police Department will continue its long-held policy of not asking any individual about immigration status when that individual is seeking help from the police or is stopped for a minor infraction, and will provide assistance and protection to any member of the public without regard to immigration status; and

NOW THE REFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1) The Belmont Town Meeting hereby expresses our solidarity with displaced persons and migrants from around the world.
- 2) Replace entirely with-- "The Belmont Town meeting affirms its support for these Belmont Police Department practices:
 - (a) Belmont Police officers will not detain persons solely to investigate their immigration status;
 - (b) Belmont Police officers will not inquire into the immigration status of persons seeking help from the police unless the information is relevant to prosecuting the reported crime or for the person's protection;
 - (c) The Belmont Police Department will not keep an index or list of persons suspected of being aliens or deportable aliens;
 - (d) The Belmont Police Department will not seek to have any officer receive a delegation of the powers of an immigration officer ;

(e) The Belmont Police Department will cooperate with federal, state, and local criminal and civil investigative agencies in the accomplishment of their lawful objectives by providing such information as the Police Department maintains;

(f) Upon the presentation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement of a detainer and an administrative warrant for the detention of a person arrested by Belmont Police Department in the course of enforcing state and local laws and currently in custody, the Belmont Police Department will maintain custody of the person for sufficient time to bring to the attention of the court officials responsible for decisions upon bail. (The Belmont Police Department will continue this practice until such time as a court with authority over the Belmont Police Department finds the practice to be contrary to law.); and

(g) The Belmont Police Department will continue to investigate reports of hate crimes, criminal discrimination, and criminal harassment of persons based upon their religion, ethnicity, or national origin without regard to the person's known or suspected unlawful status within the United States.