

**Business of the Village Board
Village of Saranac Lake**

SUBJECT: Immigration Status

Date: 6/23/2025

DEPT OF ORIGIN: Trustee White

Bill # 88-2025

DATE SUBMITTED:

EXHIBITS:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Village Attorney

Village Administration

EXPENDITURE
REQUIRED:

AMOUNT
BUDGETED:

APPROPRIATION
REQUIRED:

MOVED BY: Scollin SECONDED BY: White

VOTE ON ROLL CALL:

MAYOR WILLIAMS no

TRUSTEE BRUNETTE yes

TRUSTEE RYAN no

TRUSTEE SCOLLIN no

TRUSTEE WHITE yes

WHEREAS, the Village of Saranac Lake respects, upholds, and values equal protection and equal treatment for all residents and visitors, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, country of origin or immigration status; and

WHEREAS access to Village services is essential for all Village residents, and all individuals should have equal access to public safety, emergency services, or social assistance without fear; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Saranac Lake and the Saranac Lake Police Department is committed to providing the same opportunities, resources, and treatment to everyone, regardless of their background, characteristics, or beliefs, ensuring that everyone is treated in a just and unbiased manner, free from prejudice.

WHEREAS, the resources of the Village of Saranac Lake are finite, and the funding of Village services through local property taxes is an issue of extraordinary concern; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government is best suited, and required by law, to enforce federal immigration laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Saranac Lake Board of Trustees assures its residents that we will not tolerate acts of hate, discrimination, or harassment against any individual of our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Members of the Saranac Lake Village Police Department will not use village or department resources—including monies, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel—to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal program based solely on actual or perceived immigration status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Village of Saranac Lake Police Department shall not inquire about the immigration status of an individual, including a crime victim, a witness, or a person who calls or approaches the police seeking help, unless necessary to investigate criminal activity by that individual; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Village of Saranac Lake Police Department and its officers shall not stop, question, interrogate, investigate, or arrest an individual based solely on any of the following:

- Actual or suspected immigration or citizenship status; or
- Any actual or suspected civil violation of federal immigration laws;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Village of Saranac Lake Police Department and its officers shall not perform or support the functions of a federal civil immigration officer or otherwise engage in the enforcement of federal civil immigration law; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Village of Saranac Lake reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of immigration status, have safe and equal access to

public safety, emergency services, and social resources without fear of discrimination, harassment, or detention based solely on their immigration status.

Dear Mayor Williams, Manager Tsiklauri, and Honorable Members of the Village of Saranac Lake Board of Trustees,

I am writing to address the proposed resolution by Trustee Aurora White regarding the Saranac Lake Police Department's cooperation with Federal Authorities on matters relating to immigration enforcement. I would like to take this opportunity to provide clarity and assurance on our department's stance and practices.

First and foremost, I want to emphasize that this is not an issue we are currently facing in our community. As a matter of routine police business, we do not question the legal status of individuals we come into contact with. Our primary focus is on ensuring public safety, building trust, and fostering positive relationships with the community we serve.

However, I want to reaffirm that the Saranac Lake Police Department will continue to enforce all laws, including those related to immigration, as we have always done. We will cooperate with our federal partners, as is our duty, to ensure the safety and security of our community. This cooperation is essential in maintaining the trust and confidence of our citizens and in keeping our community safe.

I want to assure the Board and the community that our department's policies and procedures are guided by the principles of fairness, equity, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their immigration status. We are committed to providing professional and unbiased law enforcement services to everyone, without exception.

In conclusion, I appreciate Trustee White's proposal and the opportunity to address this matter. I hope this statement provides clarity and reassurance to the community that the Saranac Lake Police Department is committed to upholding the law, protecting public safety, and serving our community with integrity and compassion.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Chief Darin M. Perrotte

Village of Saranac Lake Police Department