

*Additional resource for Open Space Sanctuary discussion, during AED's March, 2017 Conference.
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REASONS TO BECOME A SANCTUARY CITY

- We know that Sanctuary Cities actually create a safer community for all people, so that law enforcement can build trust with the immigrant community and victims or witnesses aren't afraid to come forward.

We encourage everyone to communicate with Bozeman police officers without fear of inquiry regarding their immigration status.

"The Attorney General's Office recognizes that by protecting the rights and well-being of immigrant families, we build trust in law enforcement and other public agencies, thus enhancing public safety for all.

Justice cannot be served when a victim of domestic violence or a witness to a shooting does not call the police because she fears that doing so will attract the attention of officials who wish to deport her family members.

That's why standing together in this time of uncertainty is our most effective tool for keeping our communities safe."

ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN, Atty General, New York State , January, 2017

In a sanctuary city, officials implement policies to restrict local police from turning immigrants over to federal immigration agents and declare in no uncertain terms that immigrants are welcome.

Sanctuary city is a broad term applied to jurisdictions that have policies in place designed to limit cooperation with or involvement in federal immigration enforcement actions. The term most commonly is used for cities that do not permit municipal funds or resources to be applied in furtherance of enforcement of federal immigration laws. Cities, counties and some states have a range of informal policies as well as actual laws that qualify as "sanctuary" positions.

Many of the largest cities in the country have forms of such policies.

Federal law does not require the states or local police agencies to enforce immigration laws nor does it give the states or local agencies the clear authority to act in the area of immigration.

The decisions related to how local law enforcement agencies allocate their resources, direct their workforce and define the duties of their employees to best serve and protect their communities should be left in the control of state and local governments.

Local police agencies must balance any decision to enforce federal immigration laws with their daily mission of protecting and serving diverse communities, while taking into account: limited resources; the complexity of immigration laws; limitations on authority to

enforce; risk of civil liability for immigration enforcement activities and the clear need to foster the trust and cooperation from the public including members of immigrant communities...

In 2015, more than 200 state and local jurisdictions did not honor requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain individuals, ICE Director Sarah Saldaña [testified](#) before Congress, and a subset of that group refused to give access to their jails and prisons to ICE.

According to [tracking](#) by the Center for Immigration Studies, a think tank that advocates for restricting immigration and opposes sanctuary policies, roughly 300 sanctuary jurisdictions rejected more than 17,000 detention requests, between January 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015.

While most policies limit police officers' cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in every sanctuary city, officers still must and do cooperate with federal authorities "when it is to assist them with criminal activity other than immigration status."

- Detention and deportation has become a money making business that is feeding the prison industrial complex and lining the pockets of private corporations with billions of dollars.
- We have worked hard to hold the Obama administration, ICE and DHS accountable. We will continue to fight, and make sure the Trump Administration listens to the voice and stories of immigrant leaders who deserve justice, not deportation.
- We are praying that the new administration will take a position of discernment, compassion and morality with the understanding to protect the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival that has benefited nearly a million undocumented youths.
- As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted. We are responsible to a higher calling, a higher law that takes precedent over our flawed and outdated immigration laws. The church has been a space of sanctuary for those wrongly persecuted for thousands of years. The ability to provide humanitarian sanctuary defines who we are and our call as people of faith to care for the most vulnerable among us.

For some jurisdictions, resisting ICE is about limited resources. For others, it is a political, ethical, or economic stand. For nearly all of them, rejecting federal entreaties to find, hold, and hand over undocumented immigrants is considered a requirement of effective urban police work.

Last Monday, Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck said his department would not assist the Trump administration with deportations. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said his city "is

and will remain a sanctuary city.” A handful of other mayors, including those of New York; Oakland, California; Minneapolis; San Francisco; and Seattle, also pledged that they would not relinquish their status as sanctuary cities, places that in some way decline to put their powers in the service of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

In the 100-day action plan his transition team released, Trump has promised to [block](#) all federal funding for such places, which, depending on how you define sanctuary cities, may number as many as 400. That pledge sets Trump up for a showdown with local officials, including police chiefs and sheriffs, who say aggressive immigration enforcement isn’t compatible with good policing. And it places cities at the frontlines of the resistance against the incoming administration’s policies.

Legal experts seem to agree that the Trump administration would have a difficult time enacting the type of defunding it wishes to see. The most basic argument against the federal government’s ability to do that is nested in the Tenth Amendment. “It’s about federalism. It’s about separation of powers,” *Phil Torrey, a lecturer at Harvard Law School and the supervising attorney of the Harvard Immigration Project.*

It is time to declare America’s cities as sanctuaries of safety and not have local police to do the work of immigration agents.