

Executive Order No. 2025-8

PROHIBITING THE USE OF CITY PARKING LOTS, VACANT LOTS, STORAGE FACILITIES, AND GARAGES FOR CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is committed to ensuring the safety, dignity, and human rights of all residents, regardless of race, religion, immigration status, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, civil immigration enforcement activities have historically undermined community trust, spread fear, and created barriers to accessing essential City services; and

WHEREAS, during the past month, federal agents have used Chicago Public Schools parking lots and a City-owned parking lot at Harrison and Kedzie as a staging site for civil immigration enforcement operations; and

WHEREAS, Chicago has long recognized that public safety is best achieved through trust and collaboration between residents and local government, not through the militarization or deputization of City resources in service of civil immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the use of City resources, property, or personnel to facilitate civil immigration enforcement actions is inconsistent with, and undermines both the spirit and intent of, the City's Welcoming City Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, such use of City resources further erodes trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement, weakening the relationships that are essential to ensuring public safety and effective community policing; now, therefore,

I, Brandon Johnson, Mayor of the City of Chicago, do hereby order as follows:

Section 1. Prohibition on Use of City Parking Lots, Vacant Lots, Storage Facilities, and Garages.

No City-owned, leased, or operated parking lot, vacant lot, storage facility, or garage shall be used as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for civil immigration enforcement.

For purposes of this Executive Order, "staging area" means an area that is used temporarily or permanently to assemble, mobilize, or deploy personnel, vehicles,

equipment, or materials for the purpose of carrying out civil immigration enforcement operations. The term “staging area” further includes an area used for surveillance or logistical coordination for the purpose of carrying out civil immigration enforcement operations.

This Section does not prohibit the lawful use of City property for purposes unrelated to civil immigration enforcement, nor does it restrict any entity from carrying out functions unrelated to civil immigration enforcement on such property.

Section 2. Implementation and Enforcement.

City Departments and Agencies shall collaborate to identify City-owned, leased, or operated parking lots, vacant lots, storage facilities, or garages that either have been used, or may be used in the future, as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement. City Departments and Agencies shall ensure that all such properties have clear signage stating:

This property is owned and/or controlled by the City of Chicago.

It may not be used for civil immigration enforcement as a:

Staging area,
Processing location, or
Operations base

Within 5 days of the execution of this order, City Departments and Agencies shall develop the procedures necessary to implement this order, including, but not limited to, ensuring that wherever appropriate, physical barriers such as locked gates are used to limit access to City-owned, leased, or operated parking lots, vacant lots, storage facilities, or garages for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement.

These implementing procedures shall provide that any City employee who becomes aware of the attempted or actual use of a City-owned, leased, or operated parking lot, vacant lot, storage facility, or garage as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for civil immigration enforcement shall immediately report to their supervisor, who will communicate with the Office of the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel.

Any City concessionaire that operates a City-owned parking lot, vacant lot, storage facility, or garage will be in compliance with this order so long as the concessionaire:

- (i) posts signage stating as follows:

This property is owned by the City of Chicago.
It may not be used for civil immigration enforcement as a:
Staging area,
Processing location, or
Operations base

and

- (ii) notifies the City when the concessionaire becomes aware that a City-owned parking lot, vacant lot, storage facility, or garage operated by the concessionaire is used as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for civil immigration enforcement.

Section 5. Protecting Chicago Partners—Private Property Signage and Access Restrictions

The City of Chicago shall design, print, and distribute standardized signage to private landowners and leaseholders, including but not limited to businesses, nonprofit organizations, and faith institutions, that clearly states:

This property is a Protecting Chicago Partner.
No agent of the federal government, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), may enter these premises for purposes of civil immigration enforcement, absent a valid judicial warrant. This property may not be used for civil immigration enforcement as a staging area, processing location or operations base.

The City will provide signage free of charge to any landowners and leaseholders who designates their property as a Protecting Chicago Partner. Participation in this program shall be entirely voluntary. No private entity shall be required to participate.

Properties displaying this signage shall be recognized by the City as part of the Protecting Chicago Initiative, and the City shall maintain a publicly accessible roster of participating Protecting Chicago Partners.

City departments and agencies shall provide know your rights materials to Protecting Chicago Partners to ensure that employees, tenants, and security staff are aware of their rights and responsibilities regarding entry by federal agents.

Nothing in this Section shall be construed to interfere with judicial warrants, nor to limit the rights of private property owners under state or federal law.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Order will take effect upon its execution and filing with the City Clerk.

Mayor

Received and filed on _____

City Clerk