City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.

WHEREAS, On March 3, 2011, the Providence City Council passed a Resolution voicing opposition to the federal immigration program "Secure Communities;" and

WHEREAS, The Providence Police Department has participated involuntarily in "Secure Communities" since it was activated in Rhode Island on March 22nd, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Currently, no mechanism exists for local or state law enforcement agencies to "opt-out" of Secure Communities once their jurisdiction has been activated by ICE; and

WHEREAS, Immigration detainers are defined as "requests" from ICE to a law-enforcement agency that the agency hold a detainee of interest for an additional 48 hours beyond the time when said detainee would otherwise be released, thus discretion lies with the law-enforcement agency on whether or not to honor that request; and

WHEREAS, Many jurisdictions, including Connecticut, New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and Cook County, IL, around the country have chosen to exercise discretion and not to submit to certain immigration detainers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Council of the City of Providence reaffirms its opposition to the "Secure Communities" program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Council urges Governor Lincoln Chafee, Department of Corrections Director A.T. Wall, and RI State Police Superintendent Steven O'Donnell to take a leadership role in affirming the separation between Federal and State agencies by ensuring the State of Rhode Island does not honor ICE detainers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Chafee, Director Wall, and Superintendent O'Donnell.