SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety Committee

Agenda

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

9:30 AM

Council Chamber, City Hall
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Robert Kettle, Chair
Rob Saka, Vice-Chair
Debora Juarez, Member
Eddie Lin, Member
Maritza Rivera, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8807; Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov

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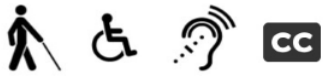

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety Committee

Agenda

March 10, 2026 - 9:30 AM

Meeting Location:
Council Chamber, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Committee Website:
https://seattle.gov/council/public-safety

This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Please register in advance in order to be recognized by the Chair. Details on how to register for Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the meeting at https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment. Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the public comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

Please submit written comments no later than four business hours prior to the start of the meeting to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the meeting. Comments may be submitted at Council@seattle.gov or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Business hours are considered 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Comments received after that time will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

Please Note: Times listed are estimated

A. Call To Order

B. Approval of the Agenda

C. Public Comment

Members of the public may address items on the agenda and matters within the purview of the committee. Please register in advance to be recognized by the Chair.

D. Items of Business

1. CB 121164 **AN ORDINANCE relating to civil immigration enforcement; prohibiting civil immigration enforcement staging on all real property that is City owned and controlled; and adding a new Chapter 14.125 to the Seattle Municipal Code.**

Supporting Documents:
Summary and Fiscal Note
Central Staff Memo
Amendment 2

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote (40 minutes)

Presenter: Greg Doss, Council Central Staff

2. **Draft Legislation on ALPR (Automated License Plate Recognition) Data Protection**

Supporting Documents:
Draft Ordinance

Briefing and Discussion (40 minutes)

Presenter: Greg Doss, Council Central Staff

E. Adjournment

File #: CB 121164, **Version:** 2

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

AN ORDINANCE relating to civil immigration enforcement; prohibiting civil immigration enforcement staging on all real property that is City owned and controlled; and adding a new Chapter 14.125 to the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2025-08 directed the City to "develop and send to the City Council an ordinance prohibiting staging and operations of federal civil immigration enforcement activities on City property to the extent permissible by law"; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle (City), as a first-class city, has the authority to control the use of its own property and to ensure the intended purposes of that property; and

WHEREAS, state and local laws and policies prohibit City resources and personnel from being used to assist with or participate in activities that support or constitute federal civil immigration enforcement, unless otherwise required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the federal government from commandeering the City's resources against the City's will related to civil immigration enforcement activities; and

WHEREAS, the City is proud to be a Welcoming City, affirming its steadfast commitment to serve as a safe and supportive home for refugees and immigrants; and

WHEREAS, federal immigration operations and staging on City property is inconsistent with the City's values of protecting immigrant and refugee communities; and

WHEREAS, the City's laws and policies are designed to promote public safety and enhance trust between

immigrant and refugee communities and their local government and local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, there is precedent for federal civil immigration enforcement activities being staged on municipal property nationwide, creating a risk that such actions could occur in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, similarly situated municipalities, including the City of Chicago and Santa Clara County, California, have also taken action to limit the federal government from engaging in civil immigration enforcement at municipal facilities, including parking lots, garages, and vacant land; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2026-03 prohibits federal authorities from using City owned and controlled property to stage civil immigration enforcement operations, to include only City parking lots, parks, plazas, vacant lots, storage facilities, garages, and the Seattle Center; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new Chapter 14.125 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

Chapter 14.125 IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT STAGING

14.125.010 Prohibiting use of City property for immigration enforcement staging

Real property that is City owned and controlled, but which does not include the public right-of-way used for pedestrian and vehicular traffic, shall not be used for civil immigration enforcement staging, including actions to assemble, mobilize, or deploy personnel, vehicles, or equipment for civil immigration enforcement operations, or for surveillance or logistical coordination for those operations.

14.125.020 Scope

A. Nothing in this Chapter 14.125 shall be construed as restricting or interfering with the execution of lawful judicial warrants or the enforcement of criminal law, nor as limiting the rights of any person under state or federal law.

B. This Chapter 14.125 does not prohibit the lawful use of real property that is City owned and controlled for purposes other than civil immigration enforcement staging, nor does it restrict any person or entity from carrying out lawful functions unrelated to that purpose on such property.

14.125.030 Injunctive relief

The Seattle City Attorney's Office may seek legal or equitable relief in a court of competent jurisdiction, including injunctive relief, to enjoin any acts or practices that violate this Chapter 14.125.

Section 2. Identification and signing of City properties to educate the public on staging restrictions

A. For the purposes of public education only, the City should create clear signage that can be posted on a property pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Section 14.125.010. The lack of a sign on City owned and controlled property shall not preclude the City from seeking injunctive relief under SMC 14.125.030.

B. When interpreting Seattle Municipal Code 14.125.010, and implementing signage pursuant to this section, the Seattle City Attorney's Office (CAO) is requested to work with the Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) to convene departments that own or manage property to identify and sign properties, prioritizing properties near essential services like healthcare, childcare, food distribution, education or other basic support services, and for which civil immigration staging might deter individuals or families from using such services.

C. By May 1, 2026, FAS and the CAO should submit to the Mayor's Office and the Council a list of properties identified using the criteria in this section.

Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance are declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or portion of this ordinance, or the invalidity of its application to any person or circumstance, does not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2026, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____

President _____ of the City Council

Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this ____day of _____, 2026.

_____

Katie B. Wilson, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Council	Greg Doss	

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to civil immigration enforcement; prohibiting civil immigration enforcement staging on all real property that is City owned and controlled; and adding a new Chapter 14.125 to the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and Background of the Legislation: This proposed legislation prohibits staging and operations of civil immigration enforcement activities on City property to the extent permissible by law.

- Prohibits civil immigration enforcement staging on all City-owned and City-controlled property.
- Clarifies the scope of the prohibitions.
- States that the Seattle City Attorney's Office may seek legal or equitable relief to enjoin any acts or practices that violate this ordinance.
- Creates a process for the Seattle City Attorney's Office (CAO) and the Department of Facilities and Administrative Services (FAS) to review properties for potential signage, prioritizing those properties provide key public services such as child care or health care.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

The legislation requires that FAS and CAO identify properties for signage that prohibits staging for civil immigration purposes. The Executive has indicated that signs will be produced at the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) sign shop and that production costs will be funded through existing appropriations.

To the extent that appropriations made in the 2026 Adopted Budget support other activities, and for which SDOT cannot find efficiencies / savings to otherwise support, SDOT may have to delay or defer projects or programs to free up funding for the signage costs that will be incurred pursuant to this legislation. Cost for signage is indeterminate at this point as FAS has not yet completed a review of all the properties that would be covered by this legislation.

3.d. Other Impacts

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.

If the City Attorney's Office engages in significant injunctive relief proceedings, staff resources may need to be redirected or supplemented.

If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.

The City Attorney's Office may be able to absorb the costs of this legislation depending on the extent of violations.

There may also be some costs for City departments developing and placing signage on City properties prohibiting staging. The Executive has indicated that these costs could be absorbed into existing operations (see question 3 above).

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.

Not implementing this legislation could contribute to an environment that limits access and safety to public spaces, especially among Seattle's undocumented immigrants.

Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.

The primary departments involved in this legislation will be the City Attorney's Office and the Department of Finance and Administrative Services. However, there may be a need for other City departments – most notably Seattle Parks and Recreation, Settle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities – to assist with signage on City properties prohibiting staging.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?
No.

b. Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation?
No.

c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?
No.

d. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.

i. How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.

This legislation seeks to prevent an environment that limits access and safety to public spaces, especially among Seattle's undocumented immigrants.

ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.
Not completed.

iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?
The City and involved departments will utilize the Language Line as needed to communicate with the public and will evaluate translating signage into other languages.

e. Climate Change Implications

i. Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.
N/A

ii. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.

This legislation will help preserve and cultivate the City's status as a "Welcoming City" by preventing an environment of fear and intimidation. This will preserve and potentially improve the social and community ties that provide resilience in the face of climate change.

f. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?

This legislation establishes a new regulation but does not qualify as a new initiative or major programmatic expansion.

g. Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?
No.

5. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments: None.

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

February 24, 2026

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Public Safety Committee
From: Greg Doss, Analyst
Subject: Council Bill 121164 – Civil Immigration Staging

On February 24, 2026, the Public Safety Committee will discuss Council Bill (CB) 121164 concerning civil immigration staging. This legislation would "prohibit the use of City owned and controlled properties for civil enforcement operations, including actions to assemble, mobilize, or deploy personnel, vehicles, or equipment for civil immigration enforcement operations, or for surveillance or logistical coordination for those operations."

This memo provides background on existing law and policies related to immigration enforcement, summarizes proposed changes under this bill, and discusses next steps for this legislation.

NOTE: Amendment 1 will be offered at the Public Safety Committee on February 24, 2026, to make a technical correction that aligns the sponsor's intent with the bill language. The amendment would restrict the prohibition of civil immigration enforcement to staging activities only.

Background

Federal Immigration Law

As a general matter, the administration and enforcement of US immigration law is exclusively a function of the federal government. Federal immigration law is, with few exceptions, a system of civil laws. Certain violations of immigration law, such as illegal entry after removal, are federal crimes, but the majority of immigration law violations are considered civil offenses rather than criminal.

Federal law prohibits state and local governments from enacting laws or policies that restrict state or local officials from sharing "information regarding the citizenship or immigration status" of individuals with the US Citizen and Immigration Services.[1] Additionally, federal law prohibits both physical and administrative interference with civil immigration enforcement. Obstructing or interfering with federal officers performing their duties can lead to criminal penalties, including felony charges.[2]

In recent years, the Washington State Legislature and the City of Seattle have enacted legislation and adopted Directives to (1) restrict the collection of information about a person's immigration status or place of birth, with limited exceptions; and (2) prohibit the disclosure of non-publicly available personal information about any person to federal immigration

[1] See: 8 USC 1373
[2] See: 18 USC 111

authorities in a noncriminal matter.[3] More information on local and state restrictions can be found in the staff report on CB 121158, which would prohibit City disclosure of certain information for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement.

Some state and local governments have begun to take actions that would prohibit federal officials from staging civil immigration enforcement operations on certain properties. Cities such as Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Los Angeles and Spokane have adopted or are developing policies that would restrict U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) access to city owned properties and/or prohibit surveillance without a warrant. Many of these actions prohibit civil enforcement activity on state or city "owned and controlled properties."

On January 29, 2026, Mayor Katie Wilson issued a Directive that prohibits the use of property that is both City-owned and City-controlled, for civil immigration enforcement activities, and directs the Department of Finance and Administrative (FAS) to create clear signage that can be posted on applicable City property. A similar Executive Order was issued by King County Executive Girmay Zahilay on February 12, 2026.

Like other cities and states, Seattle's Executive Order does not apply to the public right-of-way used for pedestrian and vehicular traffic, nor does it apply to instances where federal officials are operating under a judicial warrant or court order or are involved in criminal enforcement activities.

CB 121164

Prohibiting Civil Immigration Staging on City Property

This bill would create a new section of SMC to "prohibit the use of City owned and controlled properties for civil enforcement operations, including actions to assemble, mobilize, or deploy personnel, vehicles, or equipment for civil immigration enforcement operations, or for surveillance or logistical coordination for those operations." The ordinance would not apply to the public right-of-way used for pedestrian or vehicle traffic.

The bill would authorize the Seattle City Attorney's Office (CAO) to seek legal or equitable relief in a court of competent jurisdiction, including injunctive relief, to enjoin any acts or practices that violate the terms of the legislation.

An uncodified section specifies that, for the purposes of public education only, the City should create clear signage that can be posted on City owned and controlled properties. With the assistance of the CAO, FAS would convene departments that own or manage property to identify and sign properties, with a prioritization on properties near essential services like healthcare, childcare, food distribution, education or other basic support services, and for which immigration staging might deter individuals or families from using such services.

By May 1, 2026, FAS and the CAO would submit to the Mayor's Office and the Council a list of properties identified using the criteria in the bill.

[3] Keep Washington Working Act (KWW), E2SSB 5497 (2019)
Mayor's Office Directives 2025-07 and 2025-08

Types of Properties Covered Under CB 121164

As discussed above, the bill would prohibit civil immigration enforcement on "City owned and controlled properties," which can be reasonably interpreted as including real property in which the City has both an ownership interest and also "control" of the property. Because the term "control" is undefined in the bill, Section 2 of the bill would create a process where the CAO works with FAS to determine how to apply the law, and more specifically, where to place signage that would make the public aware that civil immigration enforcement is prohibited.

The prohibition of civil immigration enforcement may apply to properties where the City is a lessor of space, provided that the City has not ceded control of the space via contract. As noted above, the CAO would make a case-by-case determination on which properties are owned and sufficiently controlled to allow for signage.

The bill would not apply to properties where the City is leasing space from a third party. It may also not apply to properties that are operated in partnership with local or state government entities, unless the City has ownership interest in such properties.

Expanding Beyond the City Owned and Controlled Standard

Should the Council wish to expand the types of properties covered by CB 121164, the CAO, FAS and other departments would need to expand their analysis of properties that could receive signage. The total inventory of FAS-owned and controlled properties includes 218 property management areas, 149 parking lots, garages and vacant lots, and 116 buildings and yards.[4] Executive staff have indicated that there are a significant number of properties owned by other departments, including those owned by SDOT, SCL, SPR and Seattle Center. Central Staff has not yet received an inventory of these properties.

As noted above, CB 121164 would not apply to properties that are owned by third parties and leased to the City. FAS manages approximately 47 such properties. The legislation may also not apply to properties where the City is a landlord, but does not fully "control" the use of the property. FAS manages approximately 45 of these properties. In some cases, the City leases its properties to organizations that provide essential municipal and community services like healthcare, housing or skill development programs. A property-by-property analysis would be necessary to determine which of these properties might be useable for civil immigration staging.

[4] FAS indicates that inclusion of Fort Lawton, owned by the U.S. Army Reserve Command, would bring the total of buildings and yards to 131.

Enforcement

As noted above, a new SMC section 14.125.030 authorizes the CAO to seek legal or equitable relief in a court of competent jurisdiction, including injunctive relief, to enjoin any acts or practices that violate the terms of the legislation. City Attorney Evans may decide to seek relief in court based on a request made by the Mayor's Office or a City department, or may seek relief of her own accord. The determination to seek relief will likely be based on the facts surrounding the potential violation and made on a case-by-case basis.

Councilmembers received on January 23, 2026, a CAO memo on potential legal risks associated with legislation that would prohibit staging on City-owned and controlled property. Central staff is available to discuss the information in this memo at your request.

Implementation and Fiscal Impact

CB 121164 would require FAS to coordinate installation of signage on City owned and controlled properties. The "City owned and controlled" standard is consistent with the Mayor's January 29, 2026, Directive, which specifically targets City parking lots, parks, plazas, vacant lots, storage facilities, garages, and the Seattle Center.
Mayor's staff have indicated that FAS has worked with city departments to identify approximately 656 locations for signage:

- Seattle Center will post 20 signs around their properties;
- FAS will post 25 signs at City Hall Plaza, Seattle Municipal Tower, and other properties;
- Seattle Office of Housing will post 10 signs at various properties;
- Seattle City Light will post 60 signs at substations, the Sculpture Garden, and other properties;
- Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) will post 19 signs at various properties;
- Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) will post 470 signs at Parks, Community Centers, swimming pools, boat ramps, and other properties; and
- Seattle Public Utilities will post 52 signs at various properties.

The SDOT Sign Shop is currently manufacturing the metal signage, and an FAS vendor is printing plastic signs, which together are expected to cost approximately $45,000 and will be funded within departments' current appropriations. The Executive has indicated that individual departments will begin installing the signs this week. The costs for labor to install the signs have not been estimated at this time, and are also expected to be absorbed by departments under existing appropriations.

Next Steps

CB 121164 will have a first hearing on February 24, 2026, meeting of the Public Safety Committee and may be scheduled for a possible committee vote on March 10, 2026.

Attachments

1. Amendment 1 to CB 121164 Civil Immigration Enforcement Staging

cc: Ben Noble, Director
Lish Whitson, Deputy Director

Amendment 1 to CB 121164 Civil Immigration Enforcement Staging

Sponsor: Councilmember Kettle

Technical Amendment – Restrict Civil Immigration Enforcement Prohibition to Staging Activities Only

Effect: This amendment would correct a technical error by restricting the City's prohibition on civil immigration enforcement to staging activities only, including actions to assemble, mobilize, or deploy personnel, vehicles, or equipment for civil immigration enforcement operations, or for surveillance or logistical coordination for those operations. The change aligns the bill language with the sponsor's original intent.

Amend Section 1 to CB 121164 as follows:

Section 1. A new Chapter 14.125 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

Chapter 14.125 IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT STAGING

14.125.010 Prohibiting use of City property for immigration enforcement staging

Real property that is City owned and controlled, but which does not include the public right-of-way used for pedestrian and vehicular traffic, shall not be used for civil immigration enforcement staging, including actions to assemble, mobilize, or deploy personnel, vehicles, or equipment for civil immigration enforcement operations, or for surveillance or logistical coordination for those operations.

14.125.020 Scope

A. Nothing in this Chapter 14.125 shall be construed as restricting or interfering with the execution of lawful judicial warrants or the enforcement of criminal law, nor as limiting the rights of any person under state or federal law.

B. This Chapter 14.125 does not prohibit the lawful use of real property that is City owned and controlled for purposes other than civil immigration enforcement staging, nor does it

restrict any person or entity from carrying out lawful functions unrelated to that purpose on such property.

14.125.030 Injunctive relief

The Seattle City Attorney's Office may seek legal or equitable relief in a court of competent jurisdiction, including injunctive relief, to enjoin any acts or practices that violate this Chapter 14.125.

DOSS
Public Safety Committee
March 10, 2026
D1

Amendment 2 to CB 121164 Civil Immigration Enforcement Staging

Sponsor: Councilmember Lin

Author: Councilmember Foster

Expand scope of city properties that would
restrict civil immigration enforcement staging

Effect: This amendment would add a legislative Findings section that articulates municipal purposes for providing services on properties that:

1. Are City-owned and leased to a community building organization; or
2. Are leased from third parties to provide geographically accessible City services; or
3. Are managed or regulated via a partnership with other governments and are used to provide essential services to City residents and vulnerable populations.

The amendment would also eliminate the requirement for the City to both own and control a property in order to prohibit civil immigration enforcement staging. Instead, the City could prohibit such staging on a more diverse set of properties that are used to serve municipal purposes (see 1-3 above).

1. Amend CB 121164 as follows:

Section 1. Findings

A. The use of certain City properties and resources for civil immigration enforcement staging purposes can interfere with or burden City government activities, erode public trust in City government, and undermine public safety.

B. Civil immigration enforcement staging on City properties that serve sensitive populations may cause undue harm to all City residents, including individuals with lawful presence, by discouraging sensitive populations from seeking essential services or discouraging their relatives or caregivers from accompanying or visiting them.

C. Seattle's support system for vulnerable residents is built around a network of City-run programs, county partnerships, and community-based organizations, some of which operate from properties that are leased from The City of Seattle.

D. Leasing properties to non-profit service providers serves an important municipal purpose because it turns public real estate into long-term social infrastructure. It lowers barriers for the organizations that are closest to vulnerable communities while helping the City achieve policy goals more efficiently and equitably.

E. Regional partnerships, such as the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, rely on contracted service providers to operate shelters and non-congregate shelter villages and/or provide related services on City-owned or controlled properties that are located in areas with a concentration of unhoused vulnerable individuals and sensitive populations.

F. The City leases properties, such as its City Service Centers, from third parties to ensure that its services become more accessible in neighborhoods where vulnerable residents live. This practice also serves an important municipal purpose because it eliminates geographic barriers that might prevent direct access to services that are designed to meet immediate needs, stabilize long-term wellbeing, and connect people to ongoing support.

G. Civil immigration enforcement staging operations must not be staged in areas where they will interfere with the City's ability to perform its Charter-mandated obligations of government, including the health, safety, and general welfare of all Seattle residents.

Section 2. A new Chapter 14.125 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

Chapter 14.125 IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT STAGING

14.125.010 Prohibiting use of City property for immigration enforcement staging

A. Real property that is City owned ~~and~~ or controlled, but which does not include the public right-of-way used for pedestrian and vehicular traffic, shall not be used for civil immigration enforcement staging, including actions to assemble, mobilize, or deploy personnel, vehicles, or equipment for civil immigration enforcement staging operations, or for surveillance or logistical coordination for those operations.

B. For the purpose of this Chapter 14.125, a City controlled property is any real property in which the City possesses any ownership interest or any leasehold interest and for which the City has not agreed through a contractual or other legal instrument to cede control of the City's property interest as pertains to the enforcement of this Chapter 14.125.

14.125.020 Scope

A. Nothing in this Chapter 14.125 shall be construed as restricting or interfering with the execution of lawful judicial warrants or the enforcement of criminal law, nor as limiting the rights of any person under state or federal law.

B. This Chapter 14.125 does not prohibit the lawful use of real property that is City owned ~~and~~ or controlled for purposes other than civil immigration enforcement staging, nor does it restrict any person or entity from carrying out lawful functions unrelated to that purpose on such property.

14.125.030 Injunctive relief

The Seattle City Attorney's Office may seek legal or equitable relief in a court of competent jurisdiction, including injunctive relief, to enjoin any acts or practices that violate this Chapter 14.125.

Section ~~2~~3. Identification and signing of City properties to educate the public on staging restrictions

A. For the purposes of public education only, the City should create clear signage that can be posted on a property pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Section 14.125.010. The lack of a sign on City owned ~~and~~ or controlled property shall not preclude the City from seeking injunctive relief under SMC 14.125.030.

B. When interpreting SMC 14.125.010, and implementing signage pursuant to this section, the Seattle City Attorney's Office (CAO) is requested to work with the Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) to convene departments that own or ~~manage~~ control property to identify and sign properties, prioritizing properties near essential services like basic shelter, healthcare, childcare, food distribution, education or other basic support services, and for which civil immigration staging might deter individuals or families from using such services.

C. By May 1, 2026, FAS and the CAO should submit to the Mayor's Office and the Council a list of properties identified using the criteria in this section.

Section ~~3~~4. The provisions of this ordinance are declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or portion of this ordinance, or the invalidity of its application to any person or circumstance, does not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 45. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2026, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____

President _____ of the City Council

Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this ____day of _____, 2026.

_____

Katie B. Wilson, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)

Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2855, **Version:** 1

Draft Legislation on ALPR (Automated License Plate Recognition) Data Protection

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

..title
AN ORDINANCE relating to collection of surveillance data; specifying conditions for a mandatory 60-day pause in data collection for Seattle Police Department Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) and Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) systems; and amending Ordinances 127044 and 127297.
..body
WHEREAS, the City is proud to be a welcoming City, affirming its steadfast commitment to serve as a safe and supportive home for refugees and immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that every individual possesses a fundamental right of privacy regarding their personal reproductive decisions and bodily autonomy; and

WHEREAS, state and local laws and policies prohibit City resources and personnel from being used to assist with or participate in activities that support or constitute civil immigration enforcement, unless otherwise required by law; and

WHEREAS, Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) and Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) systems collect time-stamped location data that can reveal sensitive patterns of movement, including an individual's attempt to acquire reproductive services, visits to workplaces, schools, religious institutions, medical facilities, and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Washington lawmakers and Seattle City Councilmembers have expressed concern that ALPR and CCTV data is being used nationwide to support mass-deportation efforts and other civil immigration actions contrary to state and local policies and community-trust objectives; and

WHEREAS, since the 2022 Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision, there is an increased risk that ALPR location data will be used by out-of-state entities to

investigate or prosecute individuals for seeking or providing lawful reproductive health care; and

WHEREAS, ALPR data collected by some Washington law enforcement agencies has been shared with federal agencies including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), raising legal and civil rights concerns about the use of state-collected data for civil immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Seattle City Councilmembers wish to ensure that ALPR and CCTV data collected in Seattle is used solely for legitimate local public safety purposes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinances 125376 and 125679, the City Council passed Ordinance 127110 on October 8, 2024, authorizing CCTV systems to be erected in pilot deployment areas on Aurora Avenue North, Belltown, the International District, and the Downtown Commercial Core; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Ordinance 127297 on September 9, 2025, which expanded the City's CCTV pilot to the Capital Hill Nightlife area, the Stadium District, and the Garfield High School neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 127297 requires a 60-day pause of CCTV data collection if the City or its vendor receives a warrant, subpoena, or court order for Seattle CCTV data in a federal civil immigration enforcement matter, or if Seattle CCTV data is released pursuant to law for use in a federal civil immigration enforcement matter; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Ordinance 127044 on June 18, 2024, which approved the Seattle Police Department's (SPD's) expansion of ALPR technology from its current limited use to a fleet-wide deployment on all SPD patrol vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 127044 does not require a 60-day pause of ALPR data collection if ALPR data is released for use in a civil immigration matter; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to extend the 60-day pause protection to ALPR data and to specify additional triggers that would pause surveillance data collection to protect the privacy, reproductive rights, civil rights, and safety of all Seattle residents, including vulnerable immigrant communities, and to maintain public trust in local law enforcement technologies; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Ordinance 127044 is amended by adding a new Section 4 as follows, renumbering subsequent sections accordingly:

Section 4. Temporary pause in data collection

A. SPD shall immediately pause for 60 days the collection of data from ALPR technology deployed in its patrol vehicle fleet if:

1. The City or its vendor receives a warrant, subpoena, court order, or is otherwise required by law to release Seattle ALPR data for use in a civil immigration enforcement or reproductive health care matter; or

2. The Mayor and Police Chief have determined that ALPR data is being used, or potentially will be used, to track individuals seeking reproductive health care or for civil immigration enforcement purposes, including, but not limited to, uses that may occur concurrently with an increased presence of civil immigration enforcement personnel in Seattle. Such use or potential use must be jointly determined by the Mayor and Police Chief and documented in a letter to the Council President.

B. Within two business days of the ALPR data collection pause, SPD or the Mayor's Office will report to the Council the circumstances that triggered the pause and the date that the ALPR camera systems will resume data collection. Upon receiving the report, the Council may by ordinance extend the pause or end the patrol fleet ALPR program to prevent third parties from accessing Seattle's protected surveillance data.

C. During a data collection pause pursuant to subsection 4.A of this ordinance, the Mayor by executive order shall have the authority to temporarily resume ALPR data collection when necessary to gather and transmit to prosecutors evidence of potentially unlawful acts that occur during civil immigration enforcement operations or at reproductive health care facilities. The Mayor may exercise this authority by issuing an executive order that states the reasons that data collection is necessary and the date on which data collection shall again be paused. Any temporary resumption of data collection pursuant to this subsection shall reset the 60-day pause required in subsection 4.A of this ordinance.

Section 2. Section 3 of Ordinance 127297 is amended as follows:

Section 3. ((~~If the City or its vendor receives a warrant, subpoena, or court order for Seattle CCTV data in a federal civil immigration enforcement matter, or when required by law releases Seattle CCTV data for use in a federal civil immigration enforcement matter, SPD shall immediately pause use of the CCTV camera systems for 60 calendar days. Within two business days of the CCTV camera systems pause, SPD will report to the Council the circumstances that triggered the pause and the date that the CCTV camera systems use will resume. Upon receiving the report, the Council may by~~

~~ordinance extend the pause or end the CCTV program to prevent third parties from accessing Seattle's protected surveillance data.~~)) Temporary pause in data collection

A. SPD shall immediately pause for 60 days the collection of data from CCTV cameras deployed as part of its Technology-Assisted Crime Prevention Pilot if:

1. The City or its vendor receives a warrant, subpoena, court order, or is otherwise required by law to release Seattle CCTV data for use in a civil immigration enforcement or reproductive health care matter; or

2. The Mayor and Police Chief have determined that CCTV data is being used, or potentially will be used, to track individuals seeking reproductive health care or for civil immigration enforcement purposes, including, but not limited to, uses that may occur concurrently with an increased presence of civil immigration enforcement personnel in Seattle. Such use or potential use must be jointly determined by the Mayor and Police Chief and documented in a letter to the Council President.

B. Within two business days of the CCTV data collection pause, SPD or the Mayor's Office will report to the Council the circumstances that triggered the pause and the date that the CCTV camera systems will resume data collection. Upon receiving the report, the Council may by ordinance extend the pause or CCTV program to prevent third parties from accessing Seattle's protected surveillance data.

C. During a data collection pause pursuant to subsection 4.A of this ordinance, the Mayor by executive order may temporarily resume CCTV data collection when necessary to gather and transmit to prosecutors evidence of potentially unlawful acts that occur during civil immigration enforcement operations or at reproductive health care facilities. The executive order shall state the reasons that data collection is necessary and the date

on which data collection shall again be paused. Any temporary resumption of data collection pursuant to the executive order shall reset the 60-day pause required in subsection 4.A of this ordinance.

Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance are declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or portion of this ordinance, or the invalidity of its application to any person or circumstance, does not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

Passed by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2026, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____

President _____ of the City Council

Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this ____day of _____, 2026.

_____

Katie B. Wilson, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2026.

_____

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

(Seal)