

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**ORDINANCE** 127398  
COUNCIL BILL 121158

AN ORDINANCE relating to information sharing for enforcement of civil immigration laws; prohibiting City provision of nonpublicly available personal information for use in civil immigration enforcement; clarifying the City’s position on immigration enforcement being a federal matter; making technical corrections; adding a new Section 4.18.016 to the Seattle Municipal Code; amending Section 4.18.015 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and repealing Section 4.18.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle (“City”), per Ordinance 121063, does not inquire into the immigration status of any person; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that enforcement of civil immigration law is a federal matter that should not involve the participation of City employees or resources, unless required by law; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Washington State Legislature passed the Keep Washington Working Act (E2SSB 5497, codified in chapters 10.93, 43.10, 43.17, and 43.330 of the Revised Code of Washington) which restricts data collection and information sharing regarding civil immigration enforcement, including as relates to state agencies and state and local law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City now reaffirms the limited role that City officers and employees should play with respect to matters relating to immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle Municipal Code imposes no specific obligation for cooperation with civil immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, City officers and employees are directed to safeguard the information privacy of those who live and work in Seattle from use in civil immigration enforcement, to the extent permitted by law; NOW, THEREFORE,

1 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

2 Section 1. Section 4.18.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance 113192,  
3 is repealed:

4 ~~((4.18.010 Cooperation with enforcement of federal immigration laws.~~

5 ~~City officers and employees are directed to cooperate with, and not hinder, enforcement of~~  
6 ~~federal immigration laws.))~~

7 Section 2. Section 4.18.015 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance 121063,  
8 is amended as follows:

9 **4.18.015 Inquiries into immigration status((:))**

10 A. ~~((Notwithstanding Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.18.010, unless otherwise required~~  
11 ~~by law or by court order, no))~~ No Seattle City officer or employee shall, unless otherwise  
12 required by law or by court order, inquire into the immigration status of any person, or engage in  
13 activities designed to ascertain the immigration status of any person.

14 B. Seattle Police officers are exempt from the limitations imposed by subsection  
15 4.18.015.A~~((, above,))~~ with respect to a person whom the officer has reasonable suspicion to  
16 believe: (1) has previously been deported from the United States; (2) is again present in the  
17 United States; and (3) is committing or has committed a felony criminal-law violation.

18 Section 3. A new Section 4.18.016 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows:

19 **4.18.016 Prohibited information sharing**

20 No City officer or employee shall provide any nonpublicly available personal information about  
21 any person to any non-City employee or non-City officer for use in the enforcement of civil  
22 immigration laws, unless:


1           A. That person has provided permission with informed consent to a City officer or  
2 employee; or

3           B. Such disclosure is required by law or court order.


4 “Nonpublicly available personal information” is defined as including one or more of the  
5 following, when the information is linked with or is reasonably linkable, including via analytic  
6 technology, to the person’s first name or first initial and last name: Location, home address, work  
7 address, place of birth, telephone number, social security number, driver’s license number or  
8 Washington identification card number, electronic mail address, social media handle or other  
9 identifying social media information, and any other means of contacting the person, or other  
10 personally identifiable information.

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


3 Passed by the City Council the 17th day of February, 2026,  
4 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 17th day of  
5 February, 2026.

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President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

8  Approved /  returned unsigned /  vetoed this 26th day of **February**, 2026.

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Katie B. Wilson, Mayor

11 Filed by me this 26th day of February, 2026.

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13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

14 (Seal)