

**Baltimore City Executive Order
Advancing Public Safety and Access to City Services**

WHEREAS, The Mayor of Baltimore believes in the dignity of all of its residents and recognizes the importance of their contributions to social, religious, cultural, and economic life.

WHEREAS, Baltimore City has long been home to immigrants from around the world, who come here seeking peace, stability, and a better life for their families. During the 1920s, more than 1 in 4 City residents was a first or second generation immigrant; and, in the last 20 years, Baltimore City's diverse immigrant community has included immigrants from nations such as Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Korea, Mexico, China, Nigeria, Germany, India, Ukraine, and the Philippines.

WHEREAS, Today, African, Asian, and Latino populations are growing at a steady rate in Baltimore City and throughout the state of Maryland, making matters pertaining to foreign born populations an ongoing matter of importance to this City. The Governor's Commission of Hispanic Affairs Annual Report 2008-2009 reports that Maryland's Hispanic population has increased by 65%. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that the newest members of our community are extended the same rights and protections the rest of us seek to preserve and enjoy.

WHEREAS, Baltimore City promotes public trust in all local government agencies and law enforcement and the reciprocal respect for the rule of law, which are vital to promoting the City's mission of ensuring public safety and serving the needs of the entire community.

WHEREAS, The mission of the Baltimore Police Department, in partnership with the Baltimore community, is to protect and preserve life, protect property, understand and serve the needs of the City's neighborhoods and to improve the quality of life of our community.

WHEREAS, The United States Constitution vests the federal government with the sole authority to prescribe laws governing which foreign nationals are granted entrance into the country and determining who among them may stay.

WHEREAS, The City of Baltimore has consistently sought to protect the rights of all of Baltimore's residents to be free from discrimination, abuse, violence, and exploitation, as shown through its dedication to protecting victims of crime.

WHEREAS, The City of Baltimore wishes to encourage all residents of Baltimore to report crimes to City law enforcement officials and to use City services.

WHEREAS, The Baltimore Police Department's general orders provide that "no member shall discriminate against any person based on race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or disability." And the Baltimore Police

Department seeks “to ensure every person will be treated with dignity, fairness and respect, without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or handicapping condition.”

WHEREAS, The City of Baltimore remains committed to ensuring public safety, public health, and vital services on which the entire community depends and recognizes that these priorities are best achieved through the promotion of inclusiveness and trust between the government and all City residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of the City of Baltimore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Baltimore City Charter, do hereby promulgate the following EXECUTIVE ORDER for the CITY OF BALTIMORE:

1. No City Department, agency, officer or employee shall discriminate against any resident of Baltimore City based on confirmed or suspected race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, immigration status, and/or inability to speak English.
2. No City funds, resources, or personnel shall be used to investigate, question, apprehend, or arrest an individual solely for an actual or suspected civil violation of federal immigration law unless required by federal or state law.
3. No City Department, agency, officer or employee shall condition the provision of City services or benefits on the immigration status of the individual seeking those services or benefits unless such conditions are lawfully imposed by federal or state law.
4. City of Baltimore Public Safety Agencies, subject to the authority of the Police Department and Police Commissioner provided for in the Maryland Public Local Law for Baltimore City, Subtitle 16, and their officials and employees shall not inquire about a person’s immigration status or contact Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) for the purpose of initiating civil enforcement of immigration proceedings, unless required by federal or state law. It shall be the policy of these Agencies not to inquire about the immigration status of crime victims, witnesses, or others who call or approach the police or other city employees seeking assistance.
5. The City of Baltimore calls upon ICE agents performing official business in the City to identify themselves as federal immigration officers and to make clear that they are not officers, agents, or employees of the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

6. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to prohibit any City officer or employee from participating in task force activities with federal criminal law enforcement authorities.
7. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to prohibit any Baltimore Police officer from investigating violations of criminal law.
8. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to prohibit any law enforcement officer from cooperating with federal immigration authorities in the investigation and apprehension of undocumented immigrants suspected of criminal activity.

AND, that this Order shall take effect on the date of its execution, and shall remain in effect until otherwise ordered.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO PLACED
MY HAND

THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2012,



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, MAYOR,
CITY OF BALTIMORE

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
BY THE BALTIMORE CITY DEPARTMENT OF LAW:



GWEN B. TROMLEY,
CHIEF SOLICITOR