ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION LAWS

The purpose of this order is to establish policies regarding the San Francisco Police Department’s role in the enforcement of immigration laws and cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) or successor agencies whose role is to enforce immigration laws, in conformity with state and federal laws and San Francisco Administrative Code Chapters 12H and 12I.

I. POLICY.

It is the policy of the San Francisco Police Department to foster respect and trust between law enforcement and residents, to protect limited local resources, to encourage cooperation between residents, City officials, and law enforcement, and to ensure community security. It is also Department policy, consistent with its obligations under state and federal law, to adhere to San Francisco Administrative Code Chapters 12H and 12I. These Chapters generally prohibit the use of City resources to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration laws, except as required by federal or state law.

II. STATE AND LOCAL LAW. In accordance with Chapter 12H and state law, members of the Department shall, in performing their official duties, adhere to all of the following:

A. DETENTION: Members shall not stop, question, or detain any individual solely because of the individual’s national origin, foreign appearance, inability to speak English, limited English proficiency, or immigration status. (also see DGO 5.03, Investigative Detentions). Members shall not inquire into an individual’s immigration status.

B. DOCUMENTS: In the course and scope of their duties e.g., traffic enforcement, investigations, and taking reports, members shall not require individuals to produce any document to prove their immigration status. Members are reminded they shall accept a City of San Francisco Municipal Identification Card when requiring members of the public to show proof of identity.

C. ASSISTING ICE/CBP: Members shall not cooperate with or assist ICE/CBP in any investigation, detention, or arrest procedures, public or clandestine, where in any such instance the purpose is enforcing federal immigration laws.
D. INFORMATION GATHERING/DISSEMINATION FOR IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES:

1) Release Status/Confidential Information for immigration enforcement purposes. Members shall not request information about, or disseminate information, regarding the release status or release date or time of any individual or any other confidential, identifying information such as home, work, or family or emergency contact information, except as required by federal or state law. Members shall not threaten to release any personal information about an individual to federal immigration authorities.

2) Services. The Department shall not include on any application, questionnaire, or interview form it uses in relation to benefits, services, or opportunities provided by the City and County of San Francisco, any questions regarding immigration status other than those required by federal or state law.

E. ICE/CBP DETAINERS/ADMINISTRATIVE (CIVIL) WARRANTS:

Members shall not arrest or detain an individual, or provide any individual’s personal information to a federal immigration officer, solely on the basis of an administrative (civil) warrant, prior deportation order, or other civil immigration document that only addresses alleged violations of the civil provisions of immigration laws. Members shall not place an administrative (civil) immigration hold or detailer on an individual who is in custody. National Crime Information Center (“NCIC”) or California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (“CLETS”) warrant responses currently make clear whether the warrant is administrative (civil) or criminal.

Members shall adhere to all of the following when reviewing or examining outstanding warrants in the NCIC or CLETS system. Members:

1) Shall contact the Sheriff’s Central Warrant Bureau (“CWB”) to confirm any warrant before taking action on the warrant.
2) Shall not enforce federal administrative (civil) warrants for arrest (currently Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) Form I-200) or for removal/deportation (currently DHS Form I-205).
4) May enforce criminal warrants after consulting with CWB and confirming the criminal warrant.
5) Shall record the name of the individual from CWB staff who confirmed the criminal warrant in the incident report. (See DGO 6.18, Warrant Arrests.)
III. PROVIDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO ICE/CBP.

A. ICE/CBP REQUESTS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: Members may provide emergency assistance to ICE/CBP to the same extent members would respond to emergency assistance to any other law enforcement agency. For example, members may provide emergency assistance when the member determines there is an emergency posing a significant and immediate danger to public safety or to the ICE/CBP agents.

B. DUTIES OF MEMBERS: Members providing emergency assistance to ICE/CBP shall immediately notify their supervisor and complete an incident report describing the reasons for their assistance.

C. DUTIES OF SUPERVISORS: When notified that a member is providing emergency assistance to ICE/CBP, supervisors shall immediately respond to the location and ensure that such assistance is warranted.

D. TRANSPORTATION: Members shall not assist ICE/CBP in transporting individuals suspected solely of violating federal immigration laws.

E. ASSISTANCE: Member shall not provide assistance to ICE/CBP agents for routine ICE/CBP operations, investigations, or raids. If ICE/CBP requests assistance that does not amount to an emergency as outlined in this section, members shall follow the protocols listed for Interagency Operations (see DGO 5.14, Interagency Operations).

IV. ASSISTING OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.

A. INTERAGENCY OPERATIONS: If ICE/CBP requests assistance with a planned, unplanned, or spontaneous operation, members must obtain approval from the member’s Assistant Chief. (See DGO 5.14, Interagency Operations).
B. JOINT CRIMINAL OPERATIONS: Members may continue to collaborate with other law enforcement agencies, with approval of the member’s Assistant Chief, to protect public safety and participate in joint criminal investigations that are permitted under Department policy or applicable city or state law. When a member becomes aware that the criminal investigation involves the enforcement of immigration laws, the member shall:

1) Notify a Supervisor; and
2) Cease operation if doing so would not pose a risk to the officers or the public; and
3) Suspend Interagency Operations.

The Department must provide the Police Commission and make available on its public website any Memoranda of Understanding with ICE/CBP or other agency tasked with the enforcement of immigration laws regarding joint criminal operations. On a quarterly basis (January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, and October 1st of each year), the Department must provide reports of all joint taskforce operations, including:

1) The agency that initiated the joint criminal investigation;
2) The number of individuals arrested and criminally charged; and
3) The number of individuals arrested for immigration enforcement purposes.

C. ASSISTING FOREIGN GOVERNMENT: Members shall not assist or cooperate with any investigation, surveillance, or gathering of information conducted by foreign governments, except for cooperation related to an alleged violation of City and County, State, or Federal criminal laws. (See DGO 8.10, Guidelines for First Amendment Activities.) Any assistance or cooperation with a foreign government must be approved by the member’s Assistant Chief. (See DGO 5.14, Interagency Operations.) Members requesting approval of the Interagency Operation shall notify the Officer-in-Charge (“OIC”) of the Special Investigations Division (“SID”) who will evaluate whether the U.S. State Department should be notified of the assistance or cooperation.

V. DEPARTMENT BULLETINS. Department Bulletins describing current versions or relevant examples of DHS forms and the most current samples of NCIC or CLETS printouts of both administrative (civil) warrants will be issued as necessary.
VI. IDENTIFICATION. In recent years, community members have reported ICE/CBP agents identifying themselves as police when enforcing civil immigration laws in the City. The Department urges that agencies tasked with civil immigration enforcement cease this practice, as not to create the perception that Department members are involved in the enforcement of civil immigration laws.

VII. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER STATE OR LOCAL LAWS. Nothing in this General Order prohibits members from performing their duties in enforcing state and local laws.

VIII. REPORTING. The Department shall submit a written report to the Police Commission, by January 1st and July 1st of each year, addressing the following issues for the time period covered by the report:

1) A description of all communications received from federal immigration authorities, including but not limited to the number of civil immigration detainers, requests for detention or notification, requests for emergency assistance, participation in joint criminal operations, or other types of communications; and

2) A description of any communications the Department made to federal immigration authorities, including but not limited to any Department's responses to inquiries as described in subsection I of this provision.

References

DGO 5.03, Investigative Detentions
DGO 5.14, Interagency Operations
DGO 6.18, Warrant Arrests
DGO 8.10, Guidelines for First Amendment Activities