

A PROPOSAL TO DESIGNATE THE TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON AS A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

WELCOMING AND SAFE COMMUNITIES ARE POSSIBLE IF WE ARE INCLUSIVE AND IF WE TRUST

Values Statement

Considering that we the people of Great Barrington acknowledge the value for our town of our diverse population as an integral part of our labor and cultural force and that we recognize the need to provide a safe community for all residents and to keep our families together regardless of their immigration status.

Considering that the Great Barrington Police Department has stated in previous resolutions and through their positive community policing and accreditation efforts, their commitment to build and maintain positive relations within the community in which inclusivity and protection to all of our residents goes hand in hand with their mission of guaranteeing public safety and security for our community.

Considering that in our system we are all accountable under the rule of law, including the government, its officials and agents as well as the individuals and private entities that are part of our community and, in order to guarantee a sense of safety and accountability the laws should be clear, just, publicized, applied evenly and enforced in a way that reflects the community served.

We as residents of Great Barrington propose to publicly designate the Town of Great Barrington as a safe, inclusive and welcoming community, with its commitment to the following principles, policies and procedures to be followed uniformly throughout our town:

Great Barrington Trust Policy Principles

1. Great Barrington will continue to ensure civil liberties of all and enforce protection from discrimination for all residents regardless of their race, skin color, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, immigration status, religious, political or social affiliations, professed beliefs, homed or homeless status and any other demographic characteristics.
2. Great Barrington police will equally enforce the laws, promote safety and serve the Great Barrington community without consideration of individuals' immigration status or other demographic characteristics.
3. Great Barrington will not participate in enforcement of federal immigration law or aid in the detention, transfer or deportation of residents for civil immigration purposes.
4. Great Barrington police and any other agencies will not profile groups, i.e. not contact, detain, or arrest based only on demographic characteristics, including immigration status.
5. Great Barrington will not use town funds or resources to assist in federal immigration detention and arrest processes, except in criminal cases.
6. Great Barrington will follow public record laws and will not collect, keep or distribute information about any individual or group based on demographic characteristics, including immigration status for any other purpose.
7. Great Barrington will provide training to town employees regarding these policies and practices in alignment with accreditation requirements and serving the purpose of our Trust Policy.

Great Barrington Trust Policy Mandates

2.2.1 No town participation in ICE holds, arrests, detentions, or raids, or use of town resources to

facilitate said activities, except in cases where ICE demonstrates a criminal warrant signed by a judge and based on probable cause.

2.2.2 No responding to ICE seeking information outside of a criminal warrant, or providing access to local records and databases.

2.2.3 Any individual subject to an immigration hold, administrative warrant, notification request, or contact with ICE, where Great Barrington Law Enforcement acquiesces to the ICE request, shall be provided with a copy of the ICE request and any other documentation pertaining to their case that is presented to the Law Enforcement agency.

2.2.4 In furtherance of the US Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act, City of Great Barrington, Law Enforcement shall consider and sign a U Visa certification request if an individual is:

(a.) The victim of a qualifying crime, and

(b) Have been, are being, or will likely be helpful in the investigation/prosecution of that crime.

2.2.5 Reports publicly available of ICE activity in Town including but not limited to holds, reimbursements, and removals.

2.2.6 Develop a formal process for violation of Trust Policy Commitments at Selectboard meetings and in collaboration with a proposed Residents' or Human Rights Commission to be established at a later time.