

6107

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE JACKSON COUNTY REGIONAL IMMIGRATION RESPONSE TASK FORCE TO PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY, ENSURE LAWFUL PROCEDURES, COORDINATE COMMUNITY RESOURCES, AND PROVIDE PUBLIC INFORMATION REGARDING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN JACKSON COUNTY.

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BE IT ORDAINED by the County Legislature of Jackson County, Missouri, as follows:

Section 1. Findings.

The Legislature finds and declares that:

Jackson County is home to residents of diverse nationalities, cultures, and immigration statuses who contribute significantly to the economic, cultural, and civic life of the County.

Recent increases in immigration enforcement activity by federal agencies have generated concern among residents, local governments, educational institutions, healthcare providers, businesses, and community organizations regarding the protection of constitutional rights, due process, and public safety.

Maintaining public confidence in government requires accurate information, transparency, lawful conduct by all governmental entities, and coordination among local jurisdictions and community partners.

While immigration enforcement is principally a federal responsibility, Jackson County has an important interest in ensuring that residents have access to accurate information, legal resources, and appropriate governmental assistance while preserving public safety and protecting the rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Missouri.

The Legislature further finds that establishing a centralized regional response will improve communication, reduce misinformation, facilitate lawful coordination among governmental entities, and provide residents with a reliable source of information regarding immigration-related concerns.

Section 2. Creation of the Regional Immigration Response Task Force.

There is hereby created the Jackson County Regional Immigration Response Task Force ("Task Force").

The County Executive shall establish and maintain the Task Force within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 3. Purpose.

The purpose of the Task Force shall be to:

- a. Centralize the receipt and coordination of information regarding immigration enforcement activity occurring within Jackson County;
- b. Receive and document complaints from residents alleging unlawful conduct, civil rights violations, or improper procedures associated with immigration enforcement;
- c. Coordinate with appropriate governmental agencies regarding requests for information or assistance concerning immigration enforcement activities;
- d. Provide factual, timely, and accurate public information regarding immigration enforcement activities affecting Jackson County residents;
- e. Promote public safety by encouraging lawful cooperation between local governments, community organizations, legal service providers, and residents;
- f. Serve as a regional repository for information relating to immigration enforcement activities occurring within Jackson County;
- g. Develop educational materials regarding constitutional rights, due process protections, and available community resources;
- h. Facilitate communication between residents, federal officials, local governments, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, legal service providers, and other stakeholders.

Section 3A. Compliance with Federal Law.

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prohibit, impede, obstruct, delay, or interfere with the lawful execution of duties by any federal agency or federal officer acting within the scope of federal law.

The Regional Immigration Response Task Force shall not direct, supervise, or control the operations of federal immigration authorities, nor shall it undertake any action intended to prevent the lawful enforcement of federal immigration laws.

The purpose of the Task Force is to support public safety, facilitate communication, provide accurate information to residents, coordinate available community resources, document and refer complaints alleging unlawful conduct or violations of constitutional rights, and promote transparency and accountability in governmental operations.

The Task Force shall operate in a manner consistent with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and shall encourage cooperation among governmental entities, community

organizations, and residents to ensure that all persons within Jackson County are informed of their rights and responsibilities under the law.

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as creating a sanctuary jurisdiction, restricting lawful information sharing required by federal or state law, or limiting the authority of any law enforcement agency to comply with lawful court orders, warrants, or other legal processes.

Section 4. Duties.

The Task Force shall:

- Maintain a centralized reporting system for residents seeking information or wishing to report concerns related to immigration enforcement activities.
- Coordinate with municipal governments, law enforcement agencies, schools, hospitals, faith-based organizations, legal service organizations, and community partners to ensure consistent communication.
- Review patterns of reported enforcement activity and prepare recommendations concerning public safety, emergency response, and community education.
- Prepare quarterly reports for the Jackson County Legislature summarizing:
 - a. Reported immigration enforcement activity;
 - b. Community concerns received;
 - c. Educational outreach conducted;
 - d. Recommendations for improving governmental coordination; and
 - e. Any identified trends affecting public safety.

Develop protocols for documenting complaints alleging violations of constitutional rights, civil rights, or improper governmental procedures and refer such complaints to the appropriate reviewing authority.

Section 5. Immigration Services Assistance.

The Task Force may coordinate with nonprofit organizations, legal aid providers, accredited representatives, educational institutions, and other qualified organizations to:

- a. Assist residents in identifying immigration resources;
- b. Provide referrals for legal representation;
- c. Assist eligible individuals in preparing applications and supporting documentation for submission to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS);

d. Conduct informational workshops concerning available immigration benefits and responsibilities.

Nothing contained herein shall authorize Task Force personnel to provide legal advice unless otherwise authorized under applicable federal or state law.

Section 6. Membership.

The County Executive shall appoint members representing:

Jackson County administration;

The Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office;

Municipal governments;

Community-based organizations serving immigrant populations;

Accredited immigration legal service providers;

Faith-based organizations;

Educational institutions;

Healthcare providers;

Civil rights organizations;

Representatives from the business community; and

Other individuals possessing expertise in immigration law, public safety, public health, or community engagement.

Appointments should reflect the geographic, cultural, and demographic diversity of Jackson County.

Section 7. Regional Coordination.

The Task Force shall serve as a liaison among:

Jackson County residents;

Municipal governments;

Community organizations;

Federal agencies, as appropriate;

Educational institutions;

Healthcare providers;

Legal service providers; and

Other governmental entities.

The objective of such coordination shall be to improve communication, ensure lawful procedures, increase transparency, and promote public safety.

Section 8. Reports.

Beginning six (6) months following its creation, and every six (6) months thereafter, the Task Force shall submit a written report to the Legislature describing its activities, recommendations, community outreach efforts, trends observed, and any recommendations for legislative or administrative action.

Section 9. Rulemaking.

The County Executive may promulgate administrative policies and procedures necessary to implement this Ordinance.

Section 10. Severability.

If any provision of this Ordinance is determined invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 11. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and approval.