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## Immigration Enforcement

Many of our citizens have stopped to ask me what the policies are for the Truro Police Department concerning Immigration Enforcement. In addition to your questions, the topic was recently discussed at length at the Nauset Interfaith Association meeting during which our local Police Chiefs and representatives from local Churches discuss current trends or events affecting our communities.

I wanted to help our residents and visitors alike to understand a few important things regarding immigration and enforcement; the first is that the Truro Police Department treats everyone equally, regardless of their immigration status. Secondly, we are **NOT** authorized to enforce immigration laws by statute. Immigration Laws are Federal Laws under which we do not have enforcement authority. Finally, if you are a victim of a crime, we want you to feel free to come and report what has happened without fear.

The reinstated DHS Secure Communities Program ("S-Comm") replaced the now discontinued Priority Enforcement Program (PEP) on January 25, 2017 as a result of a Presidential Executive Order. This S-Comm Program is a federal program administered solely by the Department of Homeland Security—Immigration and Customs Enforcement (DHS-ICE). It is in effect in all 50 states across the country as well as Puerto Rico.

This federal program will in no way change how the Truro Police protects the public that we serve by enforcing existing **state and local laws** in a fair, impartial and professional manner to our entire community. I ask for your faith, confidence and trust in your Police Department as we continue to work together to ensure a safe and positive environment for Truro.

The Secure Communities Program has no impact on individuals who are stopped (cited or warned) solely for Civil Motor Vehicle Infractions in Massachusetts. If you are arrested for a crime, and you are not a US Citizen, a native from one of 47 specific countries, the State Department requires us to ask you if you wish for us to notify that Countries Consulate. If yes, then we do, if no, then we don't and that's it – nothing further.

If a person is arrested for any a criminal offense, the Truro Police Department sends fingerprints of those individuals to the State Police, who in turn sends them to the FBI, who then sends them to other Federal Agencies such as ICE / DHS.

What about ICE Detainers? How are they handled? A detainer is a request from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to hold a suspect for up to 48 hours. It is NOT a court order and we **do not hold** people on an ICE Detainer. The Courts are notified of the detainer and may choose to hold someone based upon normal bail considerations, not the Detainer alone.

If ICE comes to the Truro Police Station with an arrest warrant for an individual, we will provide assistance, just as we would to any other law enforcement agency.

ICE and DHS Officials from Washington, D.C. and here in Massachusetts have assured Police Chiefs across the state over the past several years that they are absolutely committed to focusing their immigration enforcement resources in a manner that best promotes national security, public safety and border security. It is our understanding that ICE will continue to prioritize their enforcement and investigatory resources focusing on offenders who commit serious violent crimes, drug dealers, human trafficking, sex offenders, gang members, & suspected terrorists and also those who are considered "***Illegal Re-entries***" (those individuals previously ordered as deported by a court of competent jurisdiction).

Finally, as members of the Truro Police Department, we remain committed to our community and will treat all that we encounter with the utmost of respect and dignity.

## SUMMARY

The Truro Police have no authority to enforce federal immigration laws, and the implementation of the Secure Communities Program does not provide any additional authority or power to further immigration arrests by local police departments.

We want to assure any residents or visitors of Truro, who are in need of services or who may be the victims of a crime, to ask us for help without fear of immigration issues.

The Truro Police Department will not be involved in any type of profiling or targeting of any specific ethnic group or presumed nationality class because of the implementation of the DHS –ICE Secure Communities Program.

This federal program will in no way change how the Truro Police protect the public that we serve by enforcing existing state and local laws in a fair and impartial manner.

Finally, as members of the Truro Police Department, we remain committed to our community and will continue to treat all that we encounter with the utmost degree of respect and dignity.