

ICE-FREE ZONE FOR AURORA

NO. 25-0898

**CHAPTER 40 RESTRICTING THE USE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY FOR CIVIL IMMIGRATION
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**



BACKGROUND

State Law Context: The Illinois TRUST Act (5 ILCS 805/1 et seq.)

- The State of Illinois already prohibits state and local law enforcement from participating in federal civil immigration operations.
- The TRUST Act **prohibits the use of City resources** for onsite support, including traffic perimeters and the use of City facilities (parking lots, garages) for federal civil immigration enforcement.
- This Ordinance extends the principle of non-participation by specifically prohibiting the use of City property as on-site support, processing, or staging locations.

WHY NOW?

Militarized federal agents have recently been deployed in Aurora and surrounding communities and have utilized publicly owned parking lots, vacant lots, and garages in Aurora and in other communities as staging sites for civil immigration enforcement operations. **Since Saturday, 14 people were detained from Aurora.** Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University reports **that 71.5% of those detained have no criminal records.** (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse [TRAC], 2025)

Goal: To formally prohibit the use of City-owned assets (parking lots, buildings, parks, etc.) as staging areas or operations bases for federal civil immigration enforcement.

Why Now?

- Recent federal operations in the region have utilized public facilities in other communities.
- ICE has been seen documented at City of Aurora parking lots and parks
- Proactive measure to protect City resources and ensure clear compliance with state law.

SECTION 40-1: CORE RESTRICTIONS

Mandate: Prohibits the use of all City properties for civil immigration enforcement activities.

A. Covered Properties (City-owned and controlled):

- Parking Lots
- Buildings (including interior and exterior areas)
- Vacant Lots
- Parks
- Specifically includes:* Phillips Park Family Aquatics Center and affiliated parking spaces.

SECTION 40-2: SCOPE AND EXCLUSIONS

A. Activities Not Restricted:

- Execution of lawful judicial warrants.
- Enforcement of criminal law.
- The ordinance does not limit the rights of any person or entity under applicable law, other than the specific limitations stated herein regarding property use.

B. Property Exclusions:

- The Chapter **does not apply** to property that is subject to an **existing lease or concession agreement** to which the City is a party.
- It shall not be interpreted to interfere with any such existing lease or agreement.



SECTION 40-3: DOCUMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

Mandate: Establishes a reporting structure and responsibility for documenting compliance and violations.

A. Reporting Requirements:

Any City employee, official, officer, or agent who **observes attempted or actual use** in violation of this Chapter shall report as soon as practical to their **Supervisor**.

The Supervisor shall immediately report the observation to the **Chief of Staff or their designee(s)**.

B. Chief of Staff Responsibility: The Chief of Staff or their designee(s) is responsible for:

Documenting all attempted or actual violations of Chapter 40.

Creating internal procedures necessary to comply with the **Illinois Accountability Commission** as established in Executive Order 25-06.

NEXT STEPS: IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

1. Employee Action

Any City employee, official, officer, or agent (the "Observer") who notices activity that may violate Chapter 40, Section 40-1, should take the following steps as soon as practicable without endangering themselves or others:

Step 1: Notification: Contact your **Direct Supervisor**.

Step 2: Information Gathering (Documentation)

While immediate safety is paramount, collect and document as much of the following objective information to provide to your supervisor:

Date and Time: Exact date and time of observation (e.g., 10/31/2025 at 9:15 AM).

Location: Specific address, building name, or facility (e.g., Phillips Park Aquatics Center Parking Lot, 3rd Floor, City Hall Garage).

Type of Property: Was it a parking lot, vacant lot, building, or park?

NEXT STEPS: IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Activity Observed: Was it a staging area (assembling vehicles/personnel), a processing location, or an operations base? Why do you believe the individuals conducting civil immigration enforcement?

Vehicles: Number of vehicles, descriptions (e.g., unmarked white vans, marked federal vehicles), and license plate numbers if safely obtainable.

Personnel: Number of individuals, uniforms (if any), and any badges/agency identification visible (e.g., "ICE" or "DHS").

Duration: Approximate length of time the activity was observed.

Your Contact: Your name, title, and contact number.

Step 3: Wait for Instruction

Do not intervene, engage, or confront the individuals involved. Your only responsibility at this stage is to report and document. Proceed with your normal duties unless instructed otherwise by your supervisor. If at any time you feel your safety is at risk, immediately leave the situation. You may also contact the police, fire, or emergency services by 911 if necessary.