

Discussion of a Potential Ordinance Designating Stockton as a Compassionate City

**Council Legislation / Environmental Committee
September 15, 2025**

Agenda

- Background
- California Senate Bill 54
- Sanctuary Cities
 - City of Sacramento
 - City of Los Angeles
- Compassionate City
 - Union City, CA
- Pros / Cons
- Next Steps

Background

- Legislation/Environmental Committee
 - Meeting on August 25, 2025
- Compliance with SB 54
- City of Stockton Stance
 - Alignment with State law, Police
 - Codify / “On the books”
 - Best practice model / Ordinance vs Resolution



Senate Bill 54 – California Values Act

- **Purpose of SB 54**

- Protect Immigrant Communities
- Enhance Access to Services
- Promote Public Safety

- **Key Provisions of SB 54**

- Limits on Law Enforcement Cooperation
- Restrictions on Information Sharing
- No Holds or Extra Jail Time
- Prohibitions on Task Forces
- Impact on Institutions



From *The Point*, A Biola magazine for students, by students (12/13/2017)

Sanctuary City Defined

What is a Sanctuary City?

- Limits/denies cooperation with federal government in enforcing immigration laws
- Does not use local resources for immigration enforcement
- Does not ask for immigration status of individuals encountered

What are Objectives?

- To reduce fear of individuals who illegally immigrated regarding:
 - Deportation
 - Family separation
 - Crime reporting
 - Access to health and social services
 - School enrollment

Sacramento: Sanctuary City

Self-designated Sanctuary City since 1985

- Police officers prohibited from asking for immigration status or assisting in immigration enforcement

1985

2017

Sanctuary City Ordinance #2017-0158 adopted in May 2017 clarifies:

- No City official, employee or agent, while in the course and scope of employment, shall use City funds or resources to enforce federal civil immigration law.
- Sacramento Police Department dedicated to addressing crime, supporting victims and building trust, regardless of immigration status.



Immigration enforcement: City of Sacramento's policies and commitment

The City of Sacramento and Sacramento Police Department (SPD) remain committed to the safety and well-being of all community members. California state law ([Senate Bill 54](#)) prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies from enforcing federal civil immigration laws—this is handled exclusively by federal agencies.

In addition, the City's [sanctuary city ordinance](#) makes it clear that no City official, employee or agent of the City, while in the course and scope of employment, shall use any City funds or resources to enforce federal civil immigration law.

SPD is dedicated to addressing crime, supporting victims, and building trust, regardless of immigration status. For more information on SPD's policy regarding immigration, visit <https://bit.ly/spd-immigration>.

This Frequently Ask Questions (FAQ) list outlines SPD's role in immigration enforcement:

Can I be deported by SPD during a traffic stop or call for service?

Answer: No

SPD does not enforce federal immigration laws. SPD employees are also prohibited from arresting, detaining, or continuing to detain a person based solely on their immigration status.

Can I be deported by SPD if I report a crime?

Answer: No

The policy is to provide equal enforcement of the law and equal service to all members of the public regardless of an individual's immigration status.

Can SPD officers stop a person to determine the person's immigration status?

Answer: No

SPD employees are prohibited from investigating, interrogating, detaining, collecting or maintaining information about an individual solely to determine immigration status.

Does SPD assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with immigration enforcement?

Answer: No

State, local laws, and department policies prohibit SPD from engaging in enforcement related to a person's immigration status.

Does SPD maintain records that reflect the immigration status of a victim, witness, or arrestee?

Answer: No

SPD does not keep or maintain any database related to a person's immigration status except to provide services related to the processing of U-Visa applications.

Do SPD officers detain individuals solely on immigration status?

Answer: No

SPD officers do not make arrests or detain individuals solely based on their suspected immigration status. Additionally, department members will not ask about a person's immigration status.

Sacramento: Sanctuary City

FAQs

Los Angeles: Sanctuary City

Resolution passed in 2017

- Declares Los Angeles “City of Sanctuary”
- No sanctuary policies codified into municipal law.

2017

2024

Ordinance #188441 adopted in 2024:

- Permanently enshrines sanctuary policies into municipal law.
- Prohibits use of City resources to enforce federal immigration laws or cooperate with federal authorities for enforcement.
- Prohibits direct and indirect data sharing with federal immigration authorities.

Compassionate City Immigration Policy Defined

What Is Compassionate City Immigration Policy?

- Local government commitment to treat all residents equally:
 - Provide access to city services regardless of immigration status
 - Refrain from assisting federal immigration enforcement
 - Does not ask about immigration status for services
 - Does not hold individuals for civil immigration reasons without judicial reason/probable cause

What are Objectives?

- Foster trust and engagement with the city
- Encourage crime reporting
- Protect the community from fear of discrimination

Union City: Compassionate City

- Human Relations Commission Outreach
 - Community shares commitment to core values of safety, tolerance and caring.
 - Initiative designed to strengthen goals of inclusiveness and compassion.
- Designated as Compassionate City in 2017
 - City has no legal authority to partner with federal authorities to enforce federal civil immigration law.
 - City encourages residents to engage with staff, freely access services and be free of fear in reporting crime.
- Recognized as best practice model on website of US Conference of Mayors.



Possible Pros / Cons



PROS

Encourage cooperation with law enforcement in crime reporting

Protect vulnerable people, enable access to services without fear

Prevent family separation

Reduce local costs

Strengthen economy



CONS

Create legal/constitutional conflict, legal liability

Raise public safety concerns, safe harbor for criminals

Increase strain on local resources

Create confusion and misinformation

Threaten federal funding

Next Steps

Staff seeks input and/or direction from the Committee on next steps.



"Immigrants are a vital part of our community. The City of Monterey Park recognizes the humanity of all individuals who call our community home and is committed to fostering an environment where everyone feels valued, safe, and respected, regardless of immigration status."