University of Massachusetts Boston Police Department  
Office of the Chief of Police

MEMORANDUM

University of Massachusetts Boston Police Department Statement Regarding Enforcement of Federal Immigration Laws

The University of Massachusetts Boston Police Department (UMBPD) takes great pride being a part of this community. We strive to maintain effective partnerships that will facilitate collaborative relationships with the students, faculty, staff and visitors. Forging partnerships with our diverse community builds trust and provides transparency. It enhances our commitment to providing a safe and secure academic environment in which the members of our community, no matter where you are from, have an equal opportunity to learn, work, or visit this great institution of higher learning. Our commitment to maintaining these relationships is best represented in our mission statement:

“The University of Massachusetts Boston Police Department is committed to providing a safe campus community and improving the quality of life for all people. We accomplish this by delivering quality police services and enforcing laws with equity and impartiality. In partnership with the campus community and our law enforcement partners, we reduce crime through public education, prevention, and awareness. In meeting this objective, we demand of ourselves the highest professional standards and dedication to our core values.”

There is much uncertainty throughout the country regarding state and local police department’s participation with enforcing federal immigration laws and/or non-criminal ICE Detainers. This uncertainty has generated a considerable amount of concern among the UMass Boston community.

In light of recent events, the UMBPD would like the UMass Boston community to be aware of the UMBPD’s position on immigration enforcement:

- A community member’s potential status as an undocumented immigrant has no relation to the mission of the UMBPD. The citizenship status has no effect on how the department interacts with a member of the UMass Boston community. UMBPD police officers do not inquire about the immigration status of victims of a crime or witnesses seeking police assistance.

- Enforcement of federal immigration laws is not the primary jurisdiction of the UMBPD. UMBPD police officers do not enforce the civil provisions of U.S. immigration law, and any law enforcement agent who wishes to enter our campus is expected to first check in with the UMBPD.

- The UMBPD will not enter into any agreements with other law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration laws. UMBPD police officers will not conduct sweeps, nor assist in any federal raids or otherwise participate in efforts to detain members of the UMass Boston community solely on the basis of being or suspected of being an undocumented immigrant unless, the member is a threat to the UMass Boston community and/or their self, has been arrested criminally of a serious violent crime or there is an active criminal warrant, authorized by a judge or magistrate of competent jurisdiction, or has been involved or suspected to be involved of a terrorist act.
The specific immigration status (or lack thereof) of an individual or group of individuals in and of itself, is not concern of the (UMBPD), unless there exists through reliable and credible information a potential threat to public safety and/or national security.

- UMBPD Police Officers shall not request passports, visas, resident alien cards (i.e., “green cards”), or travel documents in lieu of, or in addition to, driver’s licenses and other standard forms of identification.

Donald D. Baynard
Chief of Police