



**ANDY YOUNGQUIST**  
Chief of Police

# ANOKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Community Statement

Considering recent events involving federal authorities – including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – both nationally and within Minnesota related to fraud and immigration enforcement, the Anoka Police Department would like to clarify its role and responsibilities to our residents.

The Anoka Police Department enforces **state and local laws only**. We do not enforce federal criminal law or federal immigration law. This has been our longstanding practice and will continue to be so. Like many police departments, the Anoka Police Department operates under a Mission and Goals Statement. One of our stated goals is to *“instill public confidence in the police department by exercising sound management practices that provide firm direction, a commitment to excellence, and a professional working environment whereby officers can deliver police services in an efficient and expedient manner.”* This commitment applies to all individuals we serve, regardless of immigration status.

The Anoka Police Department is dedicated to serving our community with professionalism, dignity, and respect, ensuring public safety while upholding the trust of all residents.

As we have always done, the Police Department maintains open lines of communication with local, state, and federal law enforcement partners to understand whether they may be conducting investigations or operations within the City of Anoka. Based on that information, the Chief of Police and command staff determine what level of involvement, if any, is appropriate for the Anoka Police Department.

With respect to federal immigration enforcement activities, the Anoka Police Department does not take an active role in such operations unless there is an **immediate and articulable public safety concern**. To date, the Anoka

Police Department has not been made aware of any federal immigration enforcement operations occurring within the City of Anoka.

The Anoka Police Department is legally required to ensure public safety for all people. In limited circumstances, this responsibility may involve assisting with traffic or crowd control to maintain safety during federal operations. Our officers' role in these situations is focused on de-escalation, public safety, and maintaining order, not enforcing immigration law.

If protests or public gatherings occur, Anoka Police officers may respond to determine whether the activity is lawful, protect public safety, and preserve the peace, while safeguarding the constitutional rights of individuals exercising their First Amendment freedoms.

Anoka Police officers do not have authority over federal agencies and cannot interfere with or stop federal operations. It is also unlawful for members of the public to obstruct or interfere with ICE or any other federal law enforcement activity.

When witnessing any law enforcement activity, residents are encouraged to remain peaceful, stay safe, and follow lawful instructions from Anoka Police officers. Public access to streets and sidewalks must be maintained, and officers will work to ensure the safety of everyone present.

The Anoka Police Department remains committed to transparency, lawful policing, and serving all members of our community with professionalism and respect.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Youngquist #6". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andy Youngquist  
Chief of Police