



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

September 20, 2025

TO:

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
2136 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Federal Law Enforcement Identification Standards

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With four of five commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission, after a motion made by Commissioner Patel and seconded by Commissioner Dicapio, adopted the following resolution by **(4-0-0)**:

WHEREAS, following President Donald J. Trump’s declaration of a “crime emergency” in the District of Columbia on August 11, 2025ⁱ and Mayor Muriel Bowser’s Mayoral Order issued on September 2, 2025ⁱⁱ, to continue the work of the task force established under said the presidential declaration a number of federal agencies have deployed in increasing numbers within the District, including but not limited to Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Customs and Border Protection; the U.S. Secret Service; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; the U.S. Marshals Service; the U.S. Park Police; the Internal Revenue Service; and the Diplomatic Security Serviceⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, federal agents and officers have in some instances been observed conducting enforcement activity without clear identification of their agencies being visible to the public, whether in the form of identifying clothing, badges, or otherwise^{iv}; and

WHEREAS, federal agents and officers have frequently been observed wearing vests that say only “POLICE,” “FEDERAL AGENT,” and/or “FEDERAL OFFICER,” without reference to their specific agencies or directorates^v; and

WHEREAS, federal agents and officers have frequently been observed wearing masks or balaclavas during enforcement activity, further complicating identification and accountability^{vi}, and as part of an alarming trend in federal enforcement operations nationwide over the past several months^{vii}; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bowser’s Mayoral Order issued on September 2, 2025 requests that federal partners adhere to established policing practices that maintain community confidence in law



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enforcement officers, such as not wearing masks, clearly identifying their agency, and providing identification during arrests and encounters with the public^{viii};

WHEREAS, conducting enforcement activity without clear identification controverts the initial assurance by the White House that federal personnel deployed to the District would “be identified, in marked units, and highly visible^{ix}”; and

WHEREAS, conducting enforcement activity without clear identification hinders transparency, accountability, and due process, while engendering fear and mistrust among policed populations; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Police Department, recognizing the risks inherent to anonymous law enforcement, upholds strict standards on the availability and visibility of badges, name tags, and identification cards whenever its members are in uniform^x;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission calls upon the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the District’s federal representatives, and the Council of the District of Columbia to convey to their federal interlocutors the urgent need to develop clear policies on identifiability and the use of face coverings for federal personnel while conducting overt enforcement activities; and be it further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission urges the Office of the Attorney General to publicize information about federal agencies’ policies on the identifiability of their personnel, and about the appropriate channels for reporting violations to the respective agencies’ offices of professional responsibility, civil rights and civil liberties, or the like; and be it further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission applauds the efforts of legislators in other states, cognizant of potential preemption challenges, to restrict the use of face coverings and anonymous uniforms by law enforcement officers, including federal personnel^{xi}, and recommends that the Council of the District of Columbia consider taking similar measures; and be it further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission calls upon the District’s federal representatives to work to advance legislative remedies at the federal level, such as the *Visible Identification Standards for Immigration-Based Law Enforcement (VISIBLE) Act*, recently introduced in the United States Senate, which would require immigration enforcement officers, as well as other law enforcement officers detailed or deputized to perform immigration enforcement functions, to display their agency name and either their surname or their badge number during overt, public-facing enforcement activities, and would prohibit such officers from wearing non-medical face coverings except in limited circumstances^{xii}; and be it further



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Commission affirms its commitment to implementing community-based models of policing that foster familiarity, mutual respect, and trust between law enforcement and policed populations.

Commissioner Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Trupti Patel
Chairperson

CC:

Muriel Bowser, Mayor, The District of Columbia
Pamela Smith, Chief, Metropolitan Police Department, The District of Columbia
Lindsey Appiah, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety & Justice, The District of Columbia
Brian Schwalb, Attorney General, The District of Columbia
Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
Kenyan McDuffie, At-Large Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
Robert White, At-Large Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
Christina Henderson, At-Large Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
Anita Bonds, At-Large Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
Brienne Nadeau, Ward 1 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Zachary Parker, Ward 5 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Charles Allen, Ward 6 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Wendell Felder, Ward 7 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Trayon White, Ward 8 Councilmember of the District of Columbia

ⁱ “Executive Order 14333 of August 11, 2025, Declaring a Crime Emergency in the District of Columbia,” Federal Register 90, no. 155 (August 14, 2025): 39301, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-08-14/pdf/2025-15550.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ <https://mayor.dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-provides-update-federal-surge>



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- ⁱⁱⁱ Vera Bergengruen, Michelle Hackman, and Lara Seligman, “Trump’s ‘Law and Order’ Push in D.C. Looks a Lot Like an Immigration Raid,” *The Wall Street Journal*, August 20, 2025, [wsj.com/usnews/trump-dc-immigration-raid-ab03b4bc](https://www.wsj.com/usnews/trump-dc-immigration-raid-ab03b4bc).
- ^{iv} Dan Rosenzweig-Ziff, Katie Mettler, Teo Armus, and Emma Uber, “Federal Officers Detain, Tackle Moped Driver amid Trump D.C. Police Crackdown,” *The Washington Post*, August 17, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/08/17/dc-arrests-violent-takedownimmigration/>.
- ^v *Neighbors Protest as Federal Officers Arrest Two Men in D.C.*, **Washington Post** (Aug. 21, 2025), https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/local/neighbors-protest-as-federal-officers-arrest-two-men-in-dc/2025/08/21/af3c611e-8abc-4a75-9936-e262e92f6228_video.html
- ^{vi} Olivia George & Emma Uber, *On Trump’s Order, Dozens Arrested Daily in D.C. The Details Are Hidden*, **Washington Post** (Aug. 19, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/08/19/trump-crime-arrest-reports-hidden/>
- ^{vii} Jack Healy, Zolan Kanno-Youngs & Mike Baker, *A Video From Tufts Captures the Fear and Aggression in Trump’s Crackdown*, **New York Times** (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/27/us/politics/tufts-ice-crackdown.html>
- ^{viii} <https://mayor.dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-provides-update-federal-surge>
- ^{ix} Eric Levenson, *Masked Agents and Public Arrests: A Closer Look at ICE’s Increasingly Aggressive Tactics*, **CNN** (Aug. 25, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/25/us/masks-arrests-ice-tactics-immigration>
- ^x Ray Sanchez & Alisha Ebrahimji, *Masked ICE Officers: The New Calling Card of the Trump Administration’s Immigration Crackdown*, **CNN** (June 21, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/us/ice-immigration-officers-face-masks>
- ^{xi} Josh Sanders & Bill Seiders, *Pennsylvania Democrats Push Bill to Ban Masked ICE Agents, Increase Transparency in Law Enforcement*, **CBS News Philadelphia** (Aug. 14, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/pennsylvania-democrats-ban-ice-masks/>
- ^{xii} U.S. Congress, *Visible Identification Standards for Immigration-Based Law Enforcement Act (VISIBLE Act)* of 2025, S. 2212, 119th Cong., 1st Sess. (introduced July 8, 2025), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2212>