



IMPACTS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S “OPERATION METRO SURGE” IN SOUTH ST. PAUL

CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
02.12.2026

TONIGHT'S OBJECTIVES

- Brief review / staff summary of previously suggested City “response actions”
 - Ordinances
 - Economic Support
 - Resolution/Communication
- Community comment
 - Please “register” to comment if you have not
 - Staff will call on each participant to comment in order received
 - Please acknowledge and respect speaker by not interrupting
 - Please acknowledge and respect others’ time
- Opportunity for Council comment, feedback and direction
 - No action can be taken tonight
 - Any action would be considered at a Regular meeting (next meeting is Tuesday, February 17)



FOUNDATION: THE CITY'S ROLE

- Our organization's primary mission is to provide respectful, equitable and resilient public service to all members of the South St. Paul community, and we are committed to preserving public health, safety, and welfare with integrity and pride.
- South St. Paul does NOT:
 - Enforce federal immigration laws
 - Take any part in federal immigration enforcement
- South St. Paul, through the police department:
 - Enforces state and local laws
 - Does not ask about, document, or verify any individual's immigration status
 - Typically is NOT informed of any federal immigration enforcement action happening in or around the community
 - Wears clearly marked South St. Paul Police Department uniforms
 - Responds to calls for service if a crime, or a suspected crime, is reported.



PASSING CITY ORDINANCES

For example:

- Separation Ordinances
- Prohibiting Face Coverings by Law Enforcement
- Prohibiting the Use of Public Property for Staging/Coordinating Immigration Enforcement Activity

Staff feedback – we do not recommend new ordinances

- **Often unenforceable** – may contradict or be preempted by federal, state, or local law
- **Slow process** – enforcement would not be in “real time”... involves citations after the fact, not forceable removal in the moment
- **Gives false sense of security/assurance** – potential to fool community into thinking the City has the power to compel immediate removal

CREATING NEW ECONOMIC SUPPORTS

- Cash donation to Neighbors, Inc.:
 - Specifically to support hunger relief efforts/food shelf
 - Clearly allowed via statute
 - Formally require a resolution committing to an allocation from 2026 Budget
- Utilize LAHA for emergency rent relief/assistance
 - Not a program that any City in Dakota County – nor the county/CDA itself - currently administers
 - No existing internal infrastructure to verify eligibility, monitor compliance
 - Some nonprofits currently provide emergency housing support
- Provide Emergency Small Business Grants
 - Not a currently functioning mechanism for this – doesn't cleanly tie to existing loan program
 - State program announced today

RESOLUTION/COMMUNICATION

- Council Resolution :
 - Articulation of City's recognition and rejection of certain tactics and negative impacts
 - Mechanism for communicating City's position to other governmental authorities
 - Mechanism to support actions by partners and other governmental authorities that stabilize and support impacted communities and community members

OPEN THE FLOOR FOR COMMUNITY COMMENT

- Please “register” to comment if you have not already
- Staff will call on each participant to comment in order received
- Please acknowledge and respect speaker by not interrupting
- Please acknowledge and respect others’ time

