

Natick Select Board
13 E. Central Street
Natick, MA 01760

October 18, 2022

Dear Members of the Board,

We are a group of Natick residents who are asking you to develop a sanctuary policy for the town of Natick. We are residents, immigration advocates, faith leaders, parents, teachers, town meeting members, and community groups who are united in our desire to protect our non-citizen friends and neighbors.

It's no secret that immigrants are under attack in our country today. Turning on the news, we see immigrants used for political purposes, characterized incorrectly, demonized, criminalized, and scapegoated. Immigrants face all these barriers, on top of a complex legal apparatus, simply for wanting to come to this country to make a better life for themselves and their families just as many of our own ancestors did.

Here in Natick, we take a different approach. We are a town that prides itself on being welcoming to everyone. We have a school system that teaches kids to respect each other and embraces the strength of our increasingly diverse student population. We have a police department that has taken on a leadership role on anti-bias training and helping people from all walks of life. And we have a Select Board that has committed to equity and inclusion as one of its core goals for our town government.

That's why it is time for Natick to join a growing list of municipalities around the Commonwealth and around the country who have committed to being an immigration sanctuary jurisdiction. Being a sanctuary town means treating everyone the same regardless of immigration status. Massachusetts state law already prohibits police from detaining suspects in jail at the behest of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) (a practice sometimes called "ICE detainees").¹ However, Massachusetts law does not prohibit police from:

- Asking people about their immigration status.
- Sharing information with ICE about people in police custody.
- Allowing ICE agents into jails and other police facilities without a warrant.
- Assisting with federal immigration raids.
- Otherwise voluntarily helping ICE.

Many immigrants bravely report criminal activity because of their trust in our police and their belief in the American civic value of the rule of law. But, the possibility that police may work with ICE to deport people erodes trust between police and immigrant communities. The Town

¹ [*Lunn v. Commonwealth*, 477 Mass. 517 \(2017\).](#)

of Natick has an interest in ensuring that immigrants can continue to report crimes when they occur without fear of unintended repercussions to their immigration status. Sanctuary policies have proven to be an effective tool to increase cooperation between police and immigrant communities which is why many of these policies have either been enacted with the support of law enforcement leaders or by police departments themselves.² According to at least one study, crime is significantly lower in communities that adopt these policies than in comparable communities that do not.³

To be clear, the adoption of a sanctuary policy would in no way obstruct or change normal law enforcement operations. A sanctuary policy would not prevent anyone from being arrested, charged, or convicted of any crime regardless of the individual's immigration status. A sanctuary policy would also not prevent law enforcement from cooperating with ICE when they are required to do so by federal law. A sample policy is attached to give you an idea of some of the provisions that are typically included.

For these reasons and more, many municipalities in the Boston area including Acton, Maynard, Concord, and Newton have already become sanctuary cities and towns. Here in Natick, members of our group have already had productive conversations with Chief Hicks about adding Natick to that list. The Chief has expressed his support for adopting some form of sanctuary policy and we hope to continue to work with him and other town officials toward making that a reality.

But as the Select Board, you are the primary policy making authority for the town. You are also a source of moral leadership for the community and represent us as our democratically elected executive branch. In that capacity, we are asking you to put this item on a future agenda so that we may fully explain the reasons why adopting this policy is imperative to achieving our equity goals and protecting everyone who lives in, works in, and visits our town.

Thank you for your consideration,

Abby Brown

Broads Ave

Transportation Advisory Committee

Abigail Downton

6 Manchester Place

Alex Perry

Alice Bridinger

31 Morningside Ave

Beth Canterbury

27 Winnemay St.

² [ACLU Suggested Talking Points for Sanctuary City / Trust / Safe Communities Policy](#); [Acton Policy](#); [Boston Globe Article on Concord Vote](#); [Maynard Policy](#).

³ [CAP Study on Crime and Sanctuary Policies](#).

Bonnie Nguyen

33 Fiske Street

Caroline Donahue

30 Cochituate Street

Family Promise volunteer

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37 Pond St.

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65 Pine St.

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273 Bacon St.

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33 Fiske Street

Natick Equity Task Force (dissolved
2/2022)

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78 Rathbun Rd.

Grace Keeney

64 Washington Avenue

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Town Meeting Member

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5 Village Hill Ln.

Jacquelyn Fowler Morton

57 Centre Street

Janet Bishop-Levesque

166 Woodland Street

First Congregational Church of Natick

Jasmine Haque-Ahmed

14 Tamarack Road

Jeff Clausen

6 Linden Street

Jeff Dounton

6 Manchester Place

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15 Forest St

Jeremy Kipling

Town Meeting Member

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1 Village Rock Lane Apt 6

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16 Tamarack Road

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Lisa Montoy
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Lucia A Frenkel
30 Tucker Street

Maggie Sky
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Marjorie Roberson
1 Lenox Street
Family Promise Volunteer
Work with Metrowest Workers Center

Marty McCrory
12 Overlook Rd
Town Meeting Member

Miriam Siegel
11 Pearl Street

Natick For Black Lives Matter
1 Chrysler Road

P Gail Martin
37 Pond Street
First Congregational Church

Peace Flag Movement
13 Common St.

Rabbi Robin S. Sparr
29 Porter Road
HaMakom is The Place
Town Meeting Member
Natick Clergy Association

Rebekah Stendahl
94 North Ave
Charles River Dam Advisory Committee

Rev. Dr. Ian Mevorach
7 Beacon Street
Common Street Spiritual Center
Town Meeting Member

Rev. Victoria Alford Guest
6 Fairbanks Place

Robin Clausen
6 Linden St.

Sam Gloyd
6 Whittier Road Extension
Member of the Council, Common Street
Spiritual Center

Sami Ahmed
14 Tamarack Road

Sarallyn Keller
30 Fern Street
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Simone Poliandri

11 Jennings Pond Road
Town Seal Review Committee
Town Meeting Member

Susan Simone Kang

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