

# **Kitsap County Council for Human Rights: Proposed Policy Action**

**May 2026**

## **Council Mission**

To advise county government and the Kitsap County community on issues related to discrimination, violence and harassment based on race or national origin, religion, age, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, or economic status, and to promote equitable treatment of all people and reduce prejudice through education, resource referrals, and advocacy.

## **Recommendations**

We recommend the County Commissioners direct the Kitsap Prosecutor's Office to provide guidance to the public on how and when to report violations of two new state laws.<sup>1</sup> Senate Bill 5855 bars law enforcement from wearing masks. House Bill 2165 criminalizes the impersonation of law enforcement. These bills are in reaction to recent actions by federal law enforcement offices and those impersonating federal law enforcement officers. We also recommend that guidance be issued to the public in both English and Spanish.

Counties are permitted to exercise their property rights to prohibit immigration authorities from staging or conducting civil enforcement in non-public areas of county property such as parking lots, vacant lots, buildings, and garages unless required by federal law. This council would advise the County Commissioners to consider adoption of such a policy. King County, the City of Tacoma, and the City of Spokane have already adopted these types of prohibitions.<sup>234</sup>

## **Background**

It has become increasingly evident over the previous year that state and local governments must take a proactive approach to protecting the fundamental civil rights of their citizens. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency has demonstrated a pattern of overreach by implementing tactics that go beyond public safety goals and now resemble indiscriminate, high-pressure policing.

Joseph R. Goodwin, a district court judge from West Virginia characterized the actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency as leading to the following conditions in their ruling in favor of Anderson Jesus Urquilla-Ramos. "Across the interior of the United States, agents of the federal government—masked, anonymous, armed with military weapons, operating from unmarked vehicles, acting without warrants of any kind—are seizing persons for civil immigration violations and imprisoning them without any semblance of due process. The systematic character of this practice and its deliberate elimination of every structural feature that distinguishes constitutional authority from raw force place it beyond the reach of ordinary legal description". This ruling had to be made in order to secure the release of Mr. Urquilla-Ramos from civil immigration custody after being pulled over for a minor traffic violation.<sup>5</sup>

The anonymous nature of many ICE agents referenced in the ruling above also leaves communities vulnerable to those impersonating federal law enforcement to commit other crimes. This lack of transparency undermines public trust in all law enforcement officers. There have been multiple instances of robberies and kidnappings being committed by such impersonators.<sup>6</sup>

Thomas E. Johnston, another district judge from West Virginia wrote the following in his ruling in favor of Danny Briceno Solano: “By the government’s own admission, its position is that if an ICE officer made a mistake and detained somebody who was legally in the United States, that detainee would not be entitled to a bond hearing. Instead, that detainee—who is confined to a jail cell and may not have a mastery of the English language—could only have their case heard by a neutral judicial officer if they were somehow able to file a habeas petition with a Court of Appeals or the District Court of D.C.” This ruling had to be made in order to secure the release of Mr. Solano from civil immigration custody after being pulled over for a minor traffic violation.<sup>7</sup>

The right to due process hinges on a right to fair procedures and a meaningful hearing to decide if those procedures are being followed. If any group is exempted from due process rights then there is no check on that exception being expanded to include any and all groups.

## **Conclusion**

It is incumbent upon local governmental leaders to take action, not only to protect our community, but also to restore the sense of safety that has been lost due to the overreaching and at times illegal actions of the federal government and the agencies it has empowered. The absence of transparency and accountability for ICE critically undermines our shared unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

In Solidarity,

Kitsap County Council for Human Rights

1. Brionna Aho, (2026; March 19, 2026). Governor Ferguson signs bills prohibiting individuals from using false law enforcement identification, banning law enforcement from hiding identity with masks. *Office of Governor Ferguson*. <https://governor.wa.gov/news/2026/governor-ferguson-signs-bills-prohibiting-individuals-using-false-law-enforcement-identification>
2. Girmay Zahiley, ORDER OF THE KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE Protecting Immigrants and Refugees in King County, (Seattle, King County Executive, 2026), 1-6.
3. Tacoma City Council, Ordinance No 29105, (Tacoma, Tacoma City Council, 2026),
4. Spokane City Council, Ordinance No C35681, (Spokane, Spokane City Council, 2025),
5. *URQUILLA-RAMOS V. TRUMP, 2:26-cv-00066, 1, (DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON DIVISION. 2026)*
6. Rahman, B. (2025, November 7). FBI Warns of Criminals Posing as ICE in Robberies and Kidnappings. *Newsweek*. <https://www.newsweek.com/fbi-warns-criminals-posing-ice-robberies-kidnappings-11008376>
7. *SOLANO V. MASON, 2:26-cv-00045, 43, (DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA CHARLESTON DIVISION. 2026)*