

Village of Oak Park - ICE Free Zones

Oct 21, 2025

Jenna Leving Jacobson, Oak Park Village Trustee

Derek Eder, Oak Park Village Trustee

We would like to direct Oak Park Village staff to adopt an ordinance modelled after [Chicago's "ICE Free Zone" Executive Order](#) passed on October 6, 2025 and the [Resolution](#) adopted by the City of Evanston on October 13, 2025.

This document represents a starting point for actions the Village Board and Staff should take to help Oak Park prepare for increased Federal immigration operations and detentions in our community. In the past month, several Oak Park residents have been detained by ICE and DHS, and tensions, confusion, and fear have risen among our residents. We welcome input, concerns and any ideas that can help make our community safer and more prepared.

As a starting point, we see this work being done in two parts:

Prohibiting Use Of Village Property For Federal Immigration Operations

Adopt language, possibly amending our Welcoming City Ordinance, prohibiting the use of Village property for Federal immigration operations. This has already been adopted in the City of Chicago, Cook County, and Evanston. Last week, the Berwyn City Council directed their staff to draft similar language for their City. The ordinance should also allow for the placement of physical barriers, such as locked gates, to limit and block access to Village-owned properties, so that they are not accessible for immigration enforcement purposes (or any ICE activity).

While the Village owns some property, there are many other properties owned by other governmental bodies, namely the Township, Library, D97, D200 and Park District. We would like to see staff and our Board coordinate with these bodies to adopt similar policies. This topic was brought up at the Oct 18 IGOV meeting.

Village-wide Communication Plan

Create a shared communication plan and funding with the goal of: every person who visits, lives and works in the Village of Oak Park knows what to do when observing federal agents.

This plan should include:

- Shared signage, handouts, and other materials for use across government bodies in Oak Park
- Best practices for residents and organizations hiring day laborers like roofers, landscapers, painters, and movers, who face real risks of racial profiling and ICE enforcement
- Coordinated outreach, leveraging existing relationships and commissions, to high risk businesses, organizations and communities
- Signs for businesses and residents that say “We Protect All Workers” or “ICE-Free Zone”
- Potential use of Village-wide newsletters, emergency notification system and other channels to quickly notify residents of ICE activity in their area
- Trusted resources to support the development of materials include P.A.S.O.-West Suburban Action Project and [ICIRR](#)-Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

Examples of model signage:



We appreciate feedback from our fellow Board members, Staff and the community on these proposals.

Best,

Trustee Jenna Leving Jacobson

Trustee Derek Eder