

## **Resolution to Condemn Surveillance and Enforcement Practices of Federal Immigration Agencies**

**WHEREAS**, the Selectboard of Richmond affirms its commitment to the principles of the United States Declaration of Independence, which holds that all persons are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness; and further endorses the protections guaranteed by the United States Constitution, including but not limited to the First Amendment right to free speech and political dissent, and the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and seizures; and

**WHEREAS**, Article 1 of the Vermont State Constitution establishes that all persons are born equally free and independent, possessing the natural and inherent rights of enjoying and defending life, liberty, and pursuing and obtaining safety; and

**WHEREAS**, Vermont currently hosts federal immigration agency facilities, including a primary U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Williston tasked with monitoring the social media activity of U.S. residents, utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to screen vast amounts of data, a practice that threatens the Constitutional First Amendment rights of Vermonters, and anyone residing within the U.S. to engage in political dissent and peaceful protest; and

**WHEREAS**, federal immigration enforcement actions are carried out not only by ICE, but also by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and in some cases with the assistance of state and local law enforcement agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Presidential Memorandum of September 25, 2025, directed federal law enforcement to prioritize the surveillance of "ideological" motivations, specifically targeting dissent regarding migration, border control, and "anti-ICE" activities, thereby creating a climate of state-sponsored intimidation; and

**WHEREAS**, recent federal enforcement actions have resulted in increased violence, including fatalities; and

**WHEREAS**, documented reports as late as 2026 indicate a pattern of administrative retribution against federal employees, media outlets, and local jurisdictions that voice opposition to current immigration and surveillance policies;

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF RICHMOND:**

- 1. That** the Town of Richmond strongly objects to the use of any facility within the State of Vermont and/or the Town of Richmond for the warrantless surveillance of the online activities of Vermonters or any U.S. resident by federal immigration agencies, including but not limited to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

**2. That** the Town of Richmond calls upon federal immigration agencies to disclose to the Vermont Attorney General all operational locations within the State, including the number of personnel and the specific nature of activities conducted at each site.

**3. That** the Town of Richmond supports the right of the Vermont Attorney General to conduct inspections of these facilities to ensure that no illegal surveillance or violations of the Vermont State Constitution are occurring.

**4. That** the Town of Richmond urges the Vermont Attorney General and state legislators to vigorously enforce state statutes and constitutional protections against warrantless digital searches and seizures.

**5. That** the Town of Richmond expresses its formal opposition to expanded federal immigration enforcement activity within Richmond and Vermont, and requests that our elected federal and state officials take all necessary steps to protect the sovereignty of our state and the safety of all Town, State, and U.S. residents.

**6. That** the Town of Richmond is a safe and welcoming community for all individuals, regardless of immigration status, race, religion, sexual orientation, identity, gender, socioeconomic status, or ability.

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Adam Wood, Chair

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Caitlin Filkins, Vice Chair

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Greg Rabideau

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Bard Hill

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David Sander