Councilmember Eric E. Alvarez
Modesto City Council, District 2
1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6200
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Date: November 18, 2026

To: Joe Lopez, City Manager
Jose Sanchez, City Attorney

From: Councilmember Eric E. Alvarez, District 2
Councilmember Chris Ricci, District 3

Re: Request for City Consideration - City Property and Federal Civil Immigration Enforcement

Over the past several months, members of our community have called on the City to take action in response to federal immigration enforcement activity in our region and the concerns it has created for residents in District 2.

I believe there is an opportunity for Modesto to consider a measured approach that maintains public safety, preserves community trust, and ensures residents continue to feel safe accessing City facilities and services, while respecting federal law and the lawful authority of federal agencies.

Last week, the Fresno City Council adopted a resolution restricting the voluntary use of City-owned or City-controlled property for federal civil immigration enforcement activities. The policy does not prevent federal officers from accessing areas generally open to the public, interfere with criminal law enforcement, or prevent compliance with valid judicial warrants or court orders.

I would like to request that the City Manager and City Attorney review Fresno's resolution and evaluate bringing forward a similar Modesto-specific policy for City consideration.

Specifically, I would like staff to evaluate a policy establishing that, except as required by law, City-owned or City-controlled property would not knowingly be authorized or voluntarily made available for staging civil immigration enforcement operations, processing or temporary detention for civil immigration purposes, surveillance primarily related to civil immigration enforcement, or serving as an operational or logistical base for such activities.

Any proposed policy should be reviewed and drafted by the City Attorney to ensure consistency with

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federal and state law and preserve the City's ability to comply with judicial warrants and court orders, cooperate with lawful criminal investigations, and maintain public safety.

My objective is to provide the Council with a concrete, legally reviewed policy option for discussion in response to concerns raised by our community.

Please let me know the appropriate process for bringing this forward for Council consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric E. Alvarez, Councilmember
District 2 – City of Modesto

Chris Ricci, Councilmember
District 3 – City of Modesto