

At 8:30 a.m., the Florence City Council will hold their regularly scheduled work session in-person at Florence City Hall with the option to view virtually. Learn more in the attachments below.

## **Watching / Listening to the Meeting Live:**

Interested citizens may attend in person or listen and view the meeting through the ['GoToWebinar' platform](#).

Work Sessions do not allow time for general public comments (written or verbal). Public Comment periods are provided at City Council regular sessions which are generally held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m.

### 1. City Council Work Session Agenda

Documents:

[1.8.26 CC WRK SN AGENDA.PDF](#)

### 2. City Council Work Session Items Distributed

Documents:

[1.8.26 CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ITEMS DISTRIBUTED.PDF](#)

[1.8.26 City Council Work Session Video](#)

[Please email the City Recorder](#) if you have any questions.



## City of Florence Council Work Session

In Person & Videoconference  
 Florence City Hall  
 250 Hwy 101  
 Florence, OR 97439  
 541-997-3437  
[www.ci.florence.or.us](http://www.ci.florence.or.us)

- Meeting materials including information on each agenda item are published at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, and can be found of the City of Florence website at [www.ci.florence.or.us/council](http://www.ci.florence.or.us/council).
- Items distributed during the meeting, meeting minutes, and a link to the meeting video are posted to the City's website at [www.ci.florence.or.us/council](http://www.ci.florence.or.us/council) as soon as practicable after the meeting.
- To be notified of City Council meetings via email, please visit online at <http://www.ci.florence.or.us/newsletter/subscriptions>.

January 8, 2026

## WORK SESSION AGENDA

8:30 a.m.

Councilors:

Rob Ward, Mayor

Robert Carp, Council President  
 Sally Wantz, Councilor

Jo Beaudreau, Council Vice-President  
 Mike Webb, Councilor

With 48-hour prior notice, an interpreter and/or TTY: 541-997-3437, can be provided for the hearing impaired.  
 Meeting is wheelchair accessible.

In addition to attending in person, members of the public can listen and view the meeting through the 'GoToWebinar' platform at the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/677537109736201047>

### CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

8:30 a.m.

#### 1. WORK SESSION DISCUSSION TOPICS

During the work session, the City Council will consider a proposed statement addressing how the City may respond should Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities or activities occur within the City of Florence. The purpose of this session is to review draft language proposed by members of the City Council, discuss its alignment with the City's adopted values and work plan, and determine whether there is consensus to move the proposal forward for possible formal action at a future meeting. No final decision will be made during this work session.

| <b>COUNCIL CALENDAR</b>   |             |                           |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|
| <i>All meetings are held in person with a virtual option unless otherwise indicated</i> |             |                           |
| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Time</b> | <b>Description</b>        |
| January 22, 2026  | 8:30 a.m.   | City Council Work Session |
| February 2, 2026  | 5:30 p.m.   | City Council Meeting      |
| February 5, 2026  | 8:30 a.m.   | City Council Work Session |

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS PROCEDURES**

The January 8, 2026 City Council Work Session will be in person at City Hall.

**Expressing Views to the City Council:** Work Sessions do not allow time for general public comments (written or verbal). Public Comment periods are provided at City Council regular sessions which are generally held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m. For the latest City Council meeting calendar, visit the City of Florence website at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/calendar>.

**For more information on the City of Florence's Public Meeting Policies, visit the City of Florence website at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/council/rules-procedure>.**

# Background for Discussion of Immigration Issues

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JANUARY 2026

# Oregon Sanctuary Law

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In 1987, Oregon was the first state in the nation to pass a statewide law restricting state and local government from helping federal authorities with immigration enforcement.

Oregon updated and expanded the law with the Sanctuary Promise Act (HB 3265) in 2021.

# Oregon Sanctuary Law

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Oregon public bodies and law enforcement agencies generally cannot inquire about immigration status or be involved in federal immigration enforcement efforts.

State law prohibits private entities from operating immigration detention centers.

Oregon's sanctuary laws do not stop deportations or federal prosecutions for immigration-related crimes in Oregon.

# Oregon Sanctuary Law

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Officials may not grant federal immigration authorities access to non-public spaces without a judicial warrant.

Police are prohibited from acting on non-judicial warrants.

All requests made by federal agencies to local agencies regarding immigration enforcement without a judicial order must be documented, reported, and denied.

# Oregon Sanctuary Law

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Florence residents do not have a legal right to impede federal immigration agents, restrict their vehicles' movement, or break local laws.

If a Florence resident is instructed by federal law enforcement to move back, or other instructions, not following that command may lead to arrest by federal agents or other repercussions.

# Oregon Sanctuary Law

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Immigration Legal Resource Center advice:

Without judicial warrant, no obligation to open door for immigration agent.

Without judicial warrant, no obligation to consent to search.

No obligation to answer any questions.

No obligation to sign anything without speaking to lawyer.

# Oregon Sanctuary Law

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents may decide not to follow the law or other best practices.

Oregon Dept. of Justice has Sanctuary Law reporting form.

Oregon residents asked to share interactions with federal immigration authorities.

Information used to help DOJ document concerns, identify patterns, and better understand broader issues over time.

# Florence Implementation of State Law

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Florence Police Department does not enforce federal immigration laws and follows state laws regarding immigration.

FPD does not participate in routine immigration investigation and enforcement activities.

FPD treats all individuals equally and without regard to race, color or national origin in any way that would violate the United States or Oregon Constitutions.

# Florence Implementation of State Law

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FPD does not have direct jurisdiction over ICE or other federal immigration personnel operating in Florence.

FPD officers cannot intervene in ICE operations, assist Florence residents or protect Florence residents from federal arrest, or protect Florence residents from legal consequences if residents interfere with ICE operations.

# Council Declaration

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Symbolic; recognizes community concerns.

Emergency declaration required to access emergency procurement methods if City wants to immediately respond to aftermath of ICE activities.

Can facilitate regional coordination.

Serves to delegate authority and prioritize staff action.

Can demand action from state/federal partners.

# Council Declaration

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Emergency should be limited in time; renewal required.

Draws federal attention to community.

Draws federal scrutiny to City government.

Draws public attention to public officials (e.g., judges ruling against administration have faced increased harassment).

Could create unsupported community expectations.

# IMMIGRATION AND NON-ENFORCEMENT POLICY



## Florence Police Department's Community Message on Immigration and Non-Enforcement Policy

FLORENCE, OR – The Florence Police Department has received a few inquiries regarding immigration related enforcement at the local level

in light of recent national events. We feel it is important for our community to understand how we interact with the public on this topic. The Florence Police Department does not enforce federal immigration laws and we will continue to follow State laws regarding immigration. Oregon Revised Statute 181A.820 states that "No law enforcement agency of the State of Oregon or of any political subdivision of the state shall use agency moneys, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws."

The City of Florence Police Department's Policy Manual has a policy in place that states "this department does not participate in routine immigration investigation and enforcement activities." And "members shall treat all individuals equally and without regard to race, color or national origin in any way that would violate the United States or Oregon Constitutions." The City is committed to uphold this policy and Oregon State law and to treat each person with their due respect and dignity.

 Government Websites by CivicPlus®

**CITY OF FLORENCE**  
**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_, Series 202\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE MAKING A STATEMENT OF CONCERN AND OPPOSITION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OR OPERATION OF IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) AGENCY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN CITY JURISDICTION.**

**WHEREAS**, the Florence City Council, in its 2025-2027 Work Plan, adopted foundational values emphasizing compassionate public service and leading by example; and

**WHEREAS**, a primary goal of the City of Florence is to sustain and improve the livability and quality of life for all residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the city prides itself on a welcoming approach and small-town openness for all individuals, families, and businesses accessing the Oregon Coast; and

**WHEREAS**, the current direction and operation of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) have generated significant and legitimate fear among many people in our country, which conflicts with the inclusive values held dear by the Florence community; and

**WHEREAS**, this fear affects the quality of life and sense of security for Florence residents, impacting the City's ability to foster a truly livable community.

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Florence City Council officially acknowledges and supports the concerns of its citizens regarding any proposed ICE facility or housing within the city limits.
2. The City Council hereby declares its formal opposition to the stationing of ICE personnel, facilities, or related enforcement activities within the City of Florence jurisdiction.
3. The City Council directs the City Manager to pursue every available legal and legislative avenue, in cooperation with local, state, and federal leaders, to prevent the establishment of ICE activities or facilities within the city.

**ADOPTION:**

This Resolution is passed and adopted on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 202\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Ward, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsey White, City Recorder

**CITY OF FLORENCE**  
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**WHEREAS**, the city prides itself on a welcoming approach and small-town openness for all individuals, families, and businesses accessing the Oregon Coast; and

**WHEREAS**, the current direction and operation of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) have generated significant and ~~legitimate-genuine~~ fear among many ~~people communities nationwide in our country, which-contributing to trauma that stands in direct conflict~~ ~~conflicts~~ with the inclusive values held dear by the Florence community; and

**WHEREAS**, this fear affects the quality of life and sense of security for Florence residents, impacting the City's ability to foster a truly livable community.

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Florence City Council officially acknowledges and supports the concerns of its citizens regarding any proposed ICE facility or housing within the city limits.
2. The City Council hereby ~~declares-opposes its formal opposition to~~ the stationing of ICE personnel, facilities, or related enforcement activities within the City of Florence jurisdiction ~~in support of the Oregon Sanctuary Promise Act that prohibits local government and law enforcement cooperation with ICE without a judicial warrant.~~
3. ~~Therefore, t~~The City Council ~~directs agrees to the City Manager to~~ pursue every available legal and legislative avenue, in cooperation with local, state, and federal leaders, to prevent the establishment of ICE activities or facilities within the city of Florence.

**ADOPTION:**

This Resolution is passed and adopted on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Ward, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsey White, City Recorder

**January 8, 2026**

**City Council Work Session**

**Written Comments Received Since January 5, 2026, Related to This Agenda Item**

- **Commenter 1**– Dr. AJ Edman
- **Commenter 2**– Jennifer Yocum
- **Commenter 3**– Leonora Kent
- **Commenter 4**– Michele Riggs
- **Commenter 5**–Samuel Burr
- **Commenter 6**– Sheila Myers
- **Commenter 7**– Susan Schuster
- **Commenter 8**– Suzanne Kafoury-Henderson

## Support for No ICE in Florence Resolution

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**From** Aaron Edman <aaronedman@gmail.com>  
**Date** Tue 1/6/2026 8:23 AM  
**To** City Recorder <cityrecorder@ci.florence.or.us>

We are sending an email in support of Councilor Wantz' resolution to pursue every legal avenue to keep an ICE facility out of our city.

Respectfully,  
Dr. AJ Edman  
Jayne Edman

## Resolution against ICE in Florence

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**From** Jennifer Yocum <jenniferyocum@gmail.com>

**Date** Wed 1/7/2026 1:38 PM

**To** City Recorder <cityrecorder@ci.florence.or.us>; Sally Wantz <sallywantz2190@gmail.com>

**To:** Florence City Council Members

**From:** Jennifer Yocum, Community Member

**RE:** Resolution against ICE presence in Florence

**Date:** January 7, 2025

At the moment of this writing, I am listening in grief and anger to the story of an ICE protestor having been shot and killed in Minneapolis this morning. This entirely preventable and predictable tragedy occurred during a surge of ICE activity in this region.

Our Florence City Council is currently discussing a proposed resolution against ICE presence in our community. We like to think that the sanctuary laws that prevent Oregon law enforcement from cooperating with federal agencies on immigration issues provide enough said/enough done to protect our community from the depredations of ICE including unlawful kidnappings, trauma-inducing intimidation, and inhumane detention facilities. Sanctuary laws are a start, but they are not enough.

Some argue that a City Council resolution does not have the force of law, and the act of making such a resolution is a pointless exercise. This is not the case. Through this resolution, the City Council says to ICE and the federal government, you are not welcome here. We reject your cowardly and thuggish tactics. We will not tolerate the chaos and bullying you bring to our communities.

This resolution also reassures the basic dignity of all our community members who find themselves currently targeted by ICE and other federal agencies.

I urge the City Council to adopt the resolution against ICE proposed by Council Member Sally Wantz. Thank you for your service.

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum

**Fwd: Support for Councilor Wantz**

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**From** Leonora Kent <leonora.kent@gmail.com>  
**Date** Mon 1/5/2026 7:27 PM  
**To** City Recorder <cityrecorder@ci.florence.or.us>

Hello Lindsey,

I found my email in the trash. Please forward to the council and mayor for the January 8 work session.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Leonora Kent** <[leonora.kent@gmail.com](mailto:leonora.kent@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Sun, Jan 4, 2026 at 5:20 PM  
**Subject:** Support for Councilor Wantz  
**To:** <[city.recorder@ci.florence.or.us](mailto:city.recorder@ci.florence.or.us)>

Hello Mayor Ward and City Councilors,

I am writing in support of Councilor Wantz's resolution making a statement of concern and opposition to the establishment or operation to the establishment or operation of immigration and customs enforcement (ICE) facilities and activity within City jurisdiction.

I think it is important that we show support for our immigrant families as well as for our neighboring coastal towns.

I am a recently retired Lane Community College instructor. I worked with GED students and English Language Learners. In 2017 there was an ICE raid at a local mobile home park. Four men who worked in the forest were taken. Two of them were our students. We at the college were devastated. Russ Pierson, Dean at LCC Florence, and myself, planned an event to emphasize that LCC was a Sanctuary college and also introduce our immigrant students to the community. Over 100 people attended, including Mayor Joe Henry. It was a beautiful evening with music, international foods and stories from the students.

The following spring, Florence ORganizes sponsored a fundraising event held at City Lights, to help pay application fees for local DACA youth. Again our community came out with great support. About 125 folks attended and we raised approximately \$2800.

Today there are many community members who are concerned about the safety of our local hard working immigrant families. Many of us have stepped up to learn

about options to protect and support them. We know that having a safe community makes us a stronger community. We are all stronger together.

Thanks again for considering adopting Councilor Wantz's proposed resolution.

Sincerely, Nora Kent

Florence, OR.

## No Ice in Florence

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**From** michele riggs <michele\_riggs65@yahoo.com>

**Date** Tue 1/6/2026 12:27 PM

**To** City Recorder <cityrecorder@ci.florence.or.us>

I do not support ICE in Florence!! Please do something to prevent the illegal disappearing of our citizens! You just have to look online at all of the video's that are being circulated to witness the physical harm and illegal actions that are being conducted by that agency. This is NOT who we are!! Enough already.

Thank you,

Michele Riggs

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**Fwd: In support of the resolution for making a statement of concern about ice operations**

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**From** Samuel Burr <samuelburrjr@gmail.com>  
**Date** Mon 1/5/2026 6:00 PM  
**To** City Recorder <cityrecorder@ci.florence.or.us>

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Samuel Burr** <[samuelburrjr@gmail.com](mailto:samuelburrjr@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Jan 5, 2026 at 5:52 PM  
**Subject:** In support of the resolution for making a statement of concern about ice operations  
**To:** <[cityrecorder@ci.florenceor.us](mailto:cityrecorder@ci.florenceor.us)>

I support with my whole heart the resolution requested below. Words do matter. I think it is very important that resolutions like this are made. It is a start for pushing back the darkness that is threatening our country.

Sincerely,  
Samuel Burr  
43 Park Village Drive,  
Florence, OR

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE MAKING A STATEMENT OF CONCERN AND OPPOSITION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OR OPERATION OF IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) AGENCY FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN CITY JURISDICTION.

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## Sally Wantz resolution

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**From** Sheila Myers <sjmyers75@gmail.com>

**Date** Tue 1/6/2026 6:01 PM

**To** City Recorder <cityrecorder@ci.florence.or.us>

I support the resolution of Councilwoman Sally Wantz to keep ICE business out of Florence. I live in the unincorporated area of Florence at Mercer Lake, but do all of my shopping, dining, medical appointments, etc. in the city limits and would not feel comfortable doing so in a city that would actually support or even invite ICE in.

Thank you,

Sheila Myers  
88600 Ocean View Ln, Florence, OR 97439

## ICE proposed resolution

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**From** susan schuster <schuss2009@hotmail.com>

**Date** Tue 1/6/2026 10:30 AM

**To** City Recorder <cityrecorder@ci.florence.or.us>

I support the proposed resolution submitted by Councilor Wantz.

The information I have reviewed about ICE indicates a strong disregard for due process. I object to ICE facilities being built in Oregon.

Susan Schuster  
Florence, OR.

## Ice Facility in Florence

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**From** Suzanne KH <suzanne.kh@aol.com>  
**Date** Wed 1/7/2026 1:47 PM  
**To** City Recorder <cityrecorder@ci.florence.or.us>

I understand that an Ice detention facility is still being considered in Florence. I would like to comment on that.

I am totally opposed to any Ice presence in Florence or any place in Oregon. As you know a woman in Minneapolis has been killed by Ice today. Having been born and raised on the Oregon coast I do not want to see this regime rear its ugly head in this beautiful and peaceful community. The tourism will be affected immediately. No one wants to come to our hotels, restaurants, and shops and see or be harassed by these Gestapo goons, not to mention the continual protests that will take place there. Florence depends on tourism to survive and with the economy barely hanging on as it is at present, I would think the idea of a facility as this would be a detriment.

Thank you,  
Suzanne Kafoury-Henderson

Sent from my iPad