Public Comment

In **Support** of the Wichita Trust & Safety Resolution
Wichita City Council Meeting
November 10, 2026

Public Comment

Mayor Wu and Members of the Council,

My name is Logan DeMond, and I am the Director of Policy and Research at the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas. The ACLU of Kansas is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 35,000 supporters statewide that works to protect and strengthen the civil rights and liberties of all Kansans. On behalf of the ACLU of Kansas, I stand in support of Council Member Shepard's motion to place the Wichita Trust & Safety resolution on the agenda. This resolution not only affirms that all Wichita residents belong, but makes clear the city's refusal to enter into a 287(g) agreement with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

This resolution recognizes that immigrants are part of the fabric of this community. They contribute to Wichita's culture, workforce, neighborhoods, businesses, and economic development, and this resolution affirms the opportunity to belong, participate, and meaningfully contribute. Put simply, Wichitans deserve to know that their city stands with them and will protect against the abuses of ICE by not proactively assisting in their efforts of mass deportation through a 287(g) agreement.

Additionally, this resolution recognizes that residents benefit when they understand the respective roles of municipal government, the Wichita Police Department, and federal agencies. The distinction between municipal law enforcement and federal civil immigration enforcement must remain clear. For that reason, we also believe it is important for the City of Wichita to make clear what role it will and will not undertake in federal immigration enforcement. This resolution states that the city and its law-enforcement agencies publicly refuse to enter into, renew, or enhance an agreement that authorizes them to exercise federal immigration-enforcement powers, including powers under 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g).

This resolution recognizes the contributions of immigrants and emphatically says that they belong and should be able to participate in civic life, and that recognition is given meaning when reflected in the city's choices about its own resources and responsibilities. It recognizes that meaningful communication between residents and city government strengthens trust between the municipal government and its constituents, improves public services, and allows residents' experiences and perspectives to inform municipal decision-making. Finally, this resolution

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further commits the City to treating every resident with dignity, protecting constitutional rights, opposing unlawful discrimination and racial profiling, and ensuring equal access to municipal services.

At its core, this resolution is about who the City of Wichita stands with—its residents, or ICE. Wichitans deserve the opportunity to turn to municipal services, report concerns, participate in civic life, and engage with their local government without fear of racial profiling or deportation. On behalf of the ACLU of Kansas, I respectfully encourage the council to support Council Member Shepard's motion, to support this resolution, and publicly refuse to enter into a 287(g) agreement with ICE or other arrangement that would turn local government and local law enforcement into an arm of the federal government.

Logan DeMond
Director of Policy and Research

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