November 9, 2026

Mayor Wu and Members of the Wichita City Council:

Immigrants and refugees are an important part of Wichita. They contribute to our local economy, workforce, neighborhoods, businesses, schools, cultural life, and civic institutions. They are coworkers, business owners, students, parents, neighbors, and community leaders. The proposed Wichita Trust and Safety resolution recognizes the significant contributions of immigrant and refugee communities to Wichita and the importance of ensuring that residents have meaningful opportunities to participate, contribute, and feel safe in Wichita.

Recognizing these contributions should be accompanied by clear municipal choices that reinforce residents' ability to participate fully in the life of the city. This resolution would make it clear that Wichita and its law-enforcement agencies will not enter into, renew, or enhance 287(g) agreements authorizing the exercise of federal immigration-enforcement powers. This public commitment provides clarity for residents, city employees, law enforcement, and the broader community about the role of local government.

Local government works best when residents trust that they can interact with city employees and local law enforcement, access municipal services, report concerns, and participate in civic life. When the roles of municipal government and federal immigration enforcement become blurred, residents may have greater difficulty understanding which government agency is responsible for what, where they can seek help, and whether engaging with local institutions could have immigration-related consequences.

A public refusal of 287(g) therefore does more than establish an administrative position. It establishes a clear boundary around the responsibilities of local government and helps preserve the relationship between Wichita's residents and the institutions that serve them. Wichita can affirm that immigrant and refugee residents are valued contributors to Wichita while also making clear that municipal government will remain focused on serving its residents and carrying out its local responsibilities. It can promote language access, civic participation, equal access to municipal services, and meaningful relationships between residents and City government while declining to assume federal immigration-enforcement responsibilities.

Wichita's immigrant and refugee residents are part of Wichita. We, the undersigned community, civic, faith, business, labor, immigrant-rights, and nonprofit organizations, support the Wichita Trust and Safety resolution affirming that all residents belong and matter in our city.

Sincerely,

The Kansas Immigration Coalition (KIC)
ACLU of Kansas
Leading Kansas
Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA)

ICT Alerta
Defend Democracy ICT
No ICE in ICT
Wichita Pride, Inc.
Destination Innovation, Inc.
La Mesa Girasol
Hutch in Harmony
Loud Light Civic Action
League of Women Voters – Wichita
Sisters of Charity Leavenworth
SEIU Local 513
SER Empowerment Circles LLC
AB&C Bilingual Resources, LLC
The Seed House ~ La casa de la Semilla
Danielle Ramirez – Quiet Storm Service
Center for Creative Change
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita
Heartland Friends Meeting
Mennonite Church of the Servant
Rev. Dr. Robin McGonigle – Riverside Christian Church
Rev. Dona Goltry
Rev. Laurie Anderson
Dr. Gretchen Eick
Pat Cameron
Aaron Fowler
Geneva Hershberger
Lisa Tos-Brightup
Denise Cavazos