



Office of the Chief of Police

March 9, 2017

RE: Immigration Statement

Dear National City Community Members, Business Leaders and Friends:

The National discussion on immigration has created apprehension throughout the country and in our National City community. As a result, I am taking this opportunity to reassure all of our residents that the National City Police Department will continue to concentrate on crime. As we continue our commitment to our profession and community, we will remain focused on detecting and apprehending individuals involved in criminal activity and will use law enforcement tools at our disposal to address those violations. Our efforts will not emphasize immigration violations normally enforced by federal agencies.

Community engagement requires a continuous dialogue with those we serve in order to be the best crime fighting force possible. This requires all members of our community to feel comfortable contacting us and not have immigration status as an obstacle to reporting crime. Decades of research support the premise that people are more likely to cooperate with law enforcement when they believe those who are enforcing the law have the legitimate authority to do so and have their best interest in mind.

Our Department's goal is to continue to build trust and nurture police legitimacy with our community. The National City Police Department recognized and values the diversity of the community we serve. Our City's demographics (63% Latino, 20% Asian, 10% White and 5% Black; in addition, it is estimated 25% of our residents are foreign born) dictate that we reassure you, our community, that we will continue to protect you against crime when possible.

Once again, National City Police Officers will continue to honor our noble profession by focusing on protecting life, individual rights and property; our efforts will not focus on immigration violations normally enforced by federal agencies.

Thank you for your continuous support and the opportunity to serve and protect you. We have been your trusted Community Partner since 1887.

Sincerely,

Manuel Rodriguez
Chief of Police

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