

Behind The City Scene

There is a lot of misinformation regarding the City's role in the immigration issue. Recently the City Council has received a lot of public testimony on the GEO detention facility in particular and immigration policy in general. Speakers have utilized our accommodating and open *Public Invited to be Heard* portion of the agenda to spend from one hour to an hour and a half to discuss these issues.



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The GEO facility holds those individuals who have crossed the border without formal compliance with immigration protocols. ICE is the federal agency that enforces compliance with immigration laws. The City Council recently received a legal opinion that the GEO facility as a contractor to the Federal government is immune from City jurisdiction.

Nevertheless I supported an Ordinance to require GEO to report the outbreak of contagious diseases to our Fire Chief. This protects our firefighters and is in my opinion a limited intrusion into Federal control. Protesters recently disrupted a Council meeting by demanding the abolishment of ICE. I do not concur. We need control of our borders and ICE is a necessary component to that end.

Let me be absolutely clear our Police Officers do not enforce Federal immigration laws nor should they. But when anybody is brought into our detention facility their fingerprints and identity information is sent to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation which in turn shares that data with the Federal NCIC agency. ICE then has access to that information.

Based on that data ICE in 2019 has "picked up" 3 individuals. Two for DUIs and 1 with a domestic violence conviction. We do not hold any individuals in our detention facility solely for ICE purposes. ICE must pick up individuals in a timely manner consistent with the normal processing of any individual being held for criminal charges. I hope this explanation sheds some light on a very complex subject. I believe the protesters would be much better served by demonstrating at the offices of our Congressman and U.S. Senators.

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2019 Ward IV Town Meetings — Held on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30 pm at Garden Plaza of Aurora Senior Living Center, 14221 E. Evans Ave.

Heather Ridge Metro Matters November 2019