

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John J. McGuire III
1013 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Warner, Senator Kaine, Representative McGuire,

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors is committed to the safety of all members of our community. That commitment includes acting within the rule of law and the authority granted to local government.

Across the country, localities are increasingly being pulled into federal matters, and in many communities, frustration with national policies is being directed toward local officials and police officers.

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors operates under a set of defined roles and limits, to that end we do not seek to obstruct lawful federal authority. However, local elected officials have a responsibility to express our views on matters that could impact the lives of our constituents.

We encourage our federal and state representatives to advance legislation to ensure law enforcement and immigration initiatives are constitutionally implemented. Furthermore, we support legislation that would prohibit officers from obscuring their faces during immigration enforcement and require clear display of agency name, officer name, and unique identifier.

These provisions are aligned with our own local police department's policies to safeguard the public's civil liberties. Our policies require the Chief of Police's authorization for use of face coverings, mandate the use of body-worn cameras during law enforcement duties, and permit only the amount of force reasonably necessary to accomplish their law enforcement duty. Our officers are trained in de-escalation strategies to defuse situations before they escalate. Notably, these policies are publicly available for full transparency.

This Board believes that immigration enforcement actions that exceed or evade legal limits erode public confidence, destabilize communities, and undermine the legitimacy of law enforcement and governmental authority at all levels.

We will work to ensure our actions and authority are constitutional, and we respectfully request that you do the same at the federal level to ensure all community members are treated professionally while interacting with officers of the law.

Sincerely,