

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 10

A RESOLUTION OF WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING AN OFFICIAL POLICY THAT THE TOWNSHIP'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND RESOURCES SHALL NOT BE ENGAGED IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF NON-CRIMINAL FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS

WHEREAS, all people are created equal, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex, or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, fostering a welcoming environment for all people regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex, or immigration status enhances West Whiteland Township's cultural fabric, economic growth, and overall wellbeing and prosperity for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, all individuals must enjoy equal protection of the law regardless of immigration status, including the right to be free from unreasonable stops, searches, and seizures; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania require that a warrant for a person's arrest must only be issued by a neutral and detached judge or judicial officer; and

WHEREAS, in many cases, being present in the United States without proper documentation is considered a civil violation, not a criminal offense; and

WHEREAS, no state or federal law or regulation requires municipal police officers to assist the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents with their civil enforcement activities; and

WHEREAS, the West Whiteland Township Police Department does not participate in the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) 287(g) program, which authorizes certain local law enforcement agencies to perform specific federal immigration enforcement functions; and

WHEREAS, it would frustrate the criminal justice system and the safety and security of the citizens of the Township if witnesses or victims of crimes refrain from providing police with information related to such crimes because they fear the police will pursue immigration related civil enforcement remedies against them or notify ICE of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, due to the limited resources of the West Whiteland Township Police Department, police officer time and resources are better used to address, prevent, and/or investigate

criminal matters within the Township than used to address the civil enforcement activities of ICE; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of West Whiteland Township desires to establish an official policy that West Whiteland Township will neither enable ICE-related civil law enforcement nor enter into ICE program 287(g); and

WHEREAS, the West Whiteland Township Police Department will continue to enforce all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Board of Supervisors of West Whiteland Township hereby declare that West Whiteland Township will neither initiate nor accept any requests from any department or agency of the United States government to enter into any program or Memorandum of Agreement that would commit Township time, funds, efforts, or resources toward Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) non-criminal administrative enforcement activities, including entering into any agreement which authorizes any law enforcement officer of West Whiteland Township to apply and enforce federal immigration law under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, codified at 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g), more commonly known as a “287(g) Agreement.”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that West Whiteland Township will continue to fully comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and may consult with the Township Solicitor, the District Attorney’s office, and other professional advisors as necessary to ensure the protection of the rights and liberties of all residents.

DULY PRESENTED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of West Whiteland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, this 28th day of January, 2026.

Attest:

Pamela Gural-Bear
Pamela Gural-Bear,
Township Manager

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Brian Dunn
Brian Dunn, Chair

Rajesh Kumbhardare
Rajesh Kumbhardare, Vice Chair

Libby Madarasz
Libby Madarasz, Member