# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
## CHIEF OF POLICE
## KEVIN HALL

**TRAINING BULLETIN # 25-006** **DATE: 7/15/25**

**Title:** Spokane Police Department Protocol: Response to Calls Potentially Involving Immigration Enforcement

**Author of Bulletin: Chief Hall**

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**Purpose:** The Spokane Police Department is establishing guidelines for SPD personnel when responding to these types of incidents which ultimately will be either a federal immigration enforcement action or significant criminal behavior by an individual posing as a federal law enforcement officer. When responding to one of these incidents, there will be confusion, tension, and fear. SPD officers will adhere to the guiding principles of maintaining peace and ensuring the safety of all parties consistent with SPD Policy 423, constitutional protections, and Washington State law. SPD officers are expected to respond to these incidents to investigate and restore order in a calm, professional manner. SPD officers should identify the parties involved, and whether any criminal behavior is occurring as opposed to a federal immigration enforcement action.

The potential interaction between SPD officers and authentic federal agents poses a very real danger as both are armed, and each is engaging in lawful activity in a chaotic, tense situation. Furthermore, community members may also be legally armed and believe there is an abduction. Given these dynamics, the potential for friendly fire (between SPD officers and federal law enforcement) as well as community members displaying or firing weapons exist at a higher level. *Uniformed* SPD officers will create legitimacy and hopefully bring calmness and order to the incident.

Once SPD officers determine any incident is a federal immigration enforcement action, they should not interfere with federal law enforcement efforts.

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## I. BACKGROUND

Federal law enforcement efforts within our community to enforce federal immigration laws have raised a valid concern from community members. The concern is that individuals may pose as federal law enforcement officers to further criminal behaviors against community members. As federal law enforcement officers may be using face masks, unmarked cars, and generic police gear while concealing and refusing to identify themselves, any individual may replicate this behavior with little effort. As

community fear grows, it will likely lead to increased 911 calls reporting abductions, fights, or other disturbances with responding SPD officers being unaware or unsure of whether the incident involves federal law enforcement, criminal imposters, or other illegitimate actors.

## II. DEFINITIONS

• Administrative Warrant: A warrant issued by ICE (e.g., Form I-200) that does not authorize SPD to act per state statute or SPD Policy 423.

• Judicial Warrant: A warrant signed by a judge or magistrate, which **may** authorize SPD personnel to act under appropriate legal circumstances. SPD personnel shall consult with supervisor before acting.

• ICE Detainer Request: A non-binding request from ICE to detain an individual beyond the period of lawful detention. Generally reserved for correctional facilities. Does not authorize SPD officer action per state statute or SPD Policy 423.

## III. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

### Respond Based on Suspicious or Criminal Activity, Not Perceived or Reported Immigration Status

**Officer Responsibilities:**

Officers shall respond to the reported conduct or crime that may be categorized as suspicious or criminal activity. Officers are not responding to perceived or reported immigration concerns. When responding to these calls officers shall:

- Immediately request a supervisor to respond if one has not already been dispatched.
- Assess the need for additional officers, these calls may necessitate a heavy resource allocation for safety.
- Utilize principles of de-escalation for all who are present.
- Apparent enforcement action: When safe to do so and the agents/officers are not readily identifiable as local, state, or federal officers ask for the senior member or supervisor and request credentials.
- If it is determined that the incident involves federal officers involved in immigration enforcement the role of SPD is strictly limited to the following:
    - Maintaining public and officer safety – This will remain the primary purpose for SPD for the entirety of the incident. As much as possible, given the dynamic nature of each instance, maintain a level of tactical separation from the federal officers as they complete their objectives, taking only those actions necessary to preserve the peace and protect lives and property.

    - De-escalate tensions of all involved – Officers should provide clear, respectful communication to bystanders, assuring them of the SPD's neutral role and compliance with state law surrounding immigration enforcement.
    - Do not interfere with the federal enforcement action
- Complete a police report documenting all allegations of criminal behavior, witness statements, and if possible, federal supervisors name and contact information.
- Tag all associated videos in Evidence.com under the case report number.
- Take appropriate enforcement action if the involved parties are not federal officers engaged in immigration or other enforcement activities.
- Document actions taken appropriately under the police report number obtained by officers.
- Tag all associated videos in Evidence.com under the case report number.
- Notify an on-duty shift commander and the Duty Staff Officer (DSO) immediately.

## IV. 911 Communication Responsibilities:

Communications Personnel shall:

- Immediately dispatch an on-duty supervisor to any call for service that include indicators suggesting a possible or potential federal enforcement action.
- Immediately dispatch an on-duty supervisor to any open-air abduction or kidnapping call.
- Consider dispatching an on-duty supervisor to an in-progress home-invasion or burglary call that may indicate possible or potential federal enforcement action.
- Immediately attempt to contact the pre-designated federal point of contact to determine the location of any in-progress federal immigration action. This will only take place if a call for service exists, and indicators (listed above) lend credibility that federal agents may be involved.