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January 27, 2026

Oregon Department of Justice
Attn: Attorney General Dan Rayfield
1162 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Attorney General Rayfield,

On behalf of the City of Forest Grove, I am writing to respectfully request formal guidance from your office regarding how Oregon cities should respond to the presence and actions of federal immigration enforcement agents, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), within our communities.

Cities across Oregon are increasingly grappling with complex legal, operational, and community impacts arising from federal immigration enforcement activities. Local elected officials and law enforcement agencies are seeking clarity to ensure that our actions remain lawful, protect community trust, preserve limited local resources, and safeguard the constitutional and civil rights of our residents.

In particular, we respectfully request guidance from your office on the following questions:

- **Local Law Enforcement Authority:** Under what circumstances, if any, may local law enforcement intervene, engage, or respond when federal immigration agents are operating within city jurisdictions?
- **Role of the Oregon National Guard:** What role, if any, does the Oregon National Guard have in situations involving federal immigration enforcement activities within Oregon cities?
- **Evidence Preservation:** What does appropriate local evidence preservation look like to ensure that federal actions do not shut out local law enforcement or undermine ongoing or potential local investigations?
- **State–Local Partnership and Protection of Resources and Rights:** How can the Attorney General’s Office work collaboratively with cities to represent municipal needs, protect against the loss of local resources, and support cities when they are impacted by ICE activities?
- **Judicial Warrants vs. Administrative Warrants:** What actions is the Attorney General’s Office taking to uphold the requirement for judicial warrants and protect constitutional rights in the context of immigration enforcement?

Additionally, we encourage your office to consider creating avenues for cities to contribute additional questions, concerns, or proposed guidelines, so that any guidance issued reflects the shared experiences and practical realities faced by jurisdictions across Oregon. A coordinated, statewide approach would help ensure that guidance is comprehensive, clear, and responsive to the challenges cities are encountering.

Forest Grove values the leadership role of the Attorney General's Office in upholding Oregon law, protecting civil rights, and supporting local governments. Clear guidance from your office would better equip cities to respond consistently, lawfully, and compassionately in these challenging circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued service to the people and communities of Oregon. Please do not hesitate to reach out if the City of Forest Grove can be of assistance as this work moves forward.

Respectfully,



Malynda H. Wenzl
Mayor
City of Forest Grove