



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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January 29, 2026

VIA E-MAIL ONLY:

Mayor Malynda H. Wenzl
City of Forest Grove
PO Box 326
Forest Grove, OR 97116
mwenzl@forestgrove-or.gov

Re: Immigration Enforcement Guidance Request

Mayor Wenzl,

Thank you for writing on behalf of the City of Forest Grove and for your thoughtful questions regarding the presence and actions of federal immigration enforcement within Oregon communities. I appreciate your leadership and your focus on protecting community trust, preserving limited local resources, and safeguarding the constitutional and civil rights of Forest Grove residents.

At the Oregon Department of Justice, we are committed to standing with Oregon communities and local governments when federal actions raise concerns about legality, civil rights, or public safety. We recognize the fear and uncertainty that increased immigration enforcement activity has created in communities in our state and across the country. We take seriously our responsibility to ensure that federal agents operating in Oregon respect the law and the rights of the people who live here.

Under ORS Chapter 180, the Oregon Department of Justice is restricted in its ability to provide legal advice to cities and other local governments. Many of the important questions you raise — including the role of local law enforcement, evidentiary considerations, and responses to specific federal enforcement scenarios — depend heavily on factual context and would require legal advice that we are not permitted by statute to offer.

That said, my office remains committed to supporting cities by providing general guidance, resources, and tools that can help local officials navigate these challenges while complying with Oregon law. To that end, I encourage you and your legal counsel to review the following resources available through the Oregon Department of Justice:

[Law Enforcement Toolkit – Oregon Department of Justice](#)

This toolkit provides best practices and general guidance to assist law enforcement agencies in complying with Oregon’s Sanctuary Promise Act and navigating interactions with federal immigration authorities.

[Sanctuary Promise Community Toolkit – Oregon Department of Justice](#)

This resource is designed for community members and local leaders to better understand sanctuary protections, reporting mechanisms, and available supports.

[Sanctuary Promise Act Violations Hotline](#)

A confidential reporting option for residents to report potential violations of the Sanctuary Promise Act, helping ensure accountability and to protect civil rights statewide.

[Federal Oversight and Accountability Reporting Form](#)

This tool allows members of the public to report potential actions by federal authorities that may raise legal or constitutional concerns, supporting oversight and transparency.

In addition to these resources, members of my team have been participating in regular “immigration response coordination” community meetings with the westside of the metro area that bring together city and county leaders, members of Oregon’s congressional delegation, community-based organizations, and state leadership. We also regularly convene meetings of our Federal Oversight and Accountability Cabinet, a group of legal, policy, and community leaders who are actively engaged in defending Oregon against federal overreach. These conversations are important forums for sharing information, elevating concerns, and understanding the impacts federal enforcement activity is having on local governments and residents.

While we cannot issue formal legal guidance to cities, my office is always open to continued dialogue and collaboration within the scope of our authority. We welcome ongoing communication with Forest Grove and other jurisdictions as we collectively work to uphold Oregon law, protect civil rights, and support the people we serve.

Thank you again for your leadership and for reaching out. We look forward to continuing this conversation and to spending time with the Forest Grove community at Friday’s town hall.

Sincerely,



Dan Rayfield
Attorney General of Oregon