

## Summary

●The Falmouth Police Department will **not be involved** in any type of profiling or targeting of any specific ethnic group or presumed nationality class because of the implementation of the DHS –ICE Secure Communities Program.

●This federal program will in no way change how the Falmouth Police protect the public that we serve by enforcing existing state laws in a fair and impartial manner.

●Local law enforcement agencies, including the Falmouth Police, have **no authority to enforce federal immigration laws** and the implementation of the Secure Communities Program does not vest any additional authority or power to further immigration arrests by local police.

●Finally, as members of the Falmouth Police Department, we remain committed to our community and will continue to **treat all that we encounter with the utmost degree of respect and dignity.**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward L. Dunne".

Chief of Police

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**A Message from the Police  
Chief regarding the DHS - ICE  
Secure Communities Program**

**Falmouth Police  
Department**

*Partnering with the  
community since 1921*

## Description and Enforcement

The reinstated [DHS Secure Communities Program](#) (“S-Comm”) replaced the now discontinued Priority Enforcement Program (PEP) on January 25, 2017 as a result of a Presidential Executive Order. This S-Comm Program is a federal program administered solely by the Department of Homeland Security—Immigration and Customs Enforcement (DHS-ICE). It is in effect in all 50 states across the country as well as Puerto Rico.

The activation and implementation of this Secure Communities Program in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts [does not in any way](#) change the way that the Falmouth Police Department conducts our current enforcement operations pursuant to existing policies, procedures or practices.

This federal program will in no way change how the Falmouth Police protects the public that we serve by enforcing existing state laws in a fair and impartial manner to our entire community.

The Falmouth Police Department, in keeping with our current practices, [will not be involved in any profiling or targeting of any specific ethnic group or presumed nationality class because of the implementation of the Federal Secure Communities Program.](#)

We, as professional police officers, are responsible for providing effective police services to everyone in the Town of Falmouth in an [equal, fair, and just manner.](#) The detection of criminal behavior is of primary interest and concern in dealing with any subject suspected of violating the law.

[Race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, occupation, immigration status or any other arbitrary characteristic pertaining to any specific individual have absolutely no bearing on any decision for a Falmouth Police Officer to effect an arrest.](#)

Local law enforcement agencies, including the Falmouth Police, have no authority to enforce federal civil immigration laws and the implementation of the Secure Communities Program does not vest any additional authority or power to further civil immigration arrests by local police.

The Falmouth Police Department is calling on all members of our community to have the optimum level of [faith, confidence and trust](#) in your Police Department as we continue to work together to solve recurring neighborhood/community problems, to reduce overall crime and to reduce the fear of crime.

Victims and witnesses of crimes, as well as other members of our community, who wish to partner with the police and take advantage of many of our existing programs (i.e. Community Liaison Program, School Liaison Program, Neighborhood Watches, Citizens Academy, Junior Police Academy, Coffee with a cop, etc..) will absolutely not be impacted in any way by this civil federal program. The S-Comm only sends electronic biometric fingerprints of those individuals who have been [arrested for criminal offenses](#) to the DHS (ICE) from the FBI, via the Massachusetts State Police, that originated with the local police department.

The Secure Communities Program has no impact on individuals who are stopped (cited or warned) solely for Civil Motor Vehicle Infractions in Massachusetts.

[As mentioned, this federal program has no impact on any victims or witnesses of crimes here in Falmouth.](#)

ICE Officials from Washington, D.C. and here in Massachusetts have assured Police Chiefs, Police Superintendents and Police Commissioners across the state over the past several years that they are absolutely committed to focusing their immigration enforcement resources in a manner that best promotes national security, public safety and border security. It is our understanding that ICE will continue to prioritize their enforcement and investigatory resources focusing on offenders who commit serious violent crimes, drug dealers, human trafficking, sex offenders, gang members, & suspected terrorists and also those who are considered “***Illegal Re-entries***” (those individuals previously ordered as deported by a court of competent jurisdiction) which are of primary concern to law enforcement in optimizing public safety.

Finally, as members of the Falmouth Police Department, [we remain committed to our community and will treat all that we encounter with the utmost level of respect and dignity.](#)