



AGENDA MEMO



TO: City Council and Members of the Public

FROM: At-Large Councilmember
Rowena Brown

SUBJECT: Resolution In Support Of AB 1537
(Bryan)

DATE: January 22, 2026

RECOMMENDATION

ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 1537 (BRYAN) WHICH WOULD (1) PROHIBIT CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS FROM WORKING OR VOLUNTEERING FOR ANY ENTITY THAT ENGAGES IN IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT, (2) ESTABLISH FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THAT RESTRICTION AS GROUNDS FOR DECERTIFICATION AS A PEACE OFFICER, (3) REQUIRE PEACE OFFICERS TO REPORT ANY SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT RELATED TO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT, AND (4) REQUIRE THAT RECORDS RELATED TO SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT OF PEACE OFFICERS BE PUBLIC RECORDS

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

Background

On January 22, 2019, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. [13515](#) C.M.S., the Sanctuary City Ordinance, which strengthened the City's policy of non-cooperation with federal immigration agencies, which was previously established and amended by Resolutions No. 63950, [80584](#), and [86498](#) C.M.S., and reaffirmed by Resolution No. [87036](#) C.M.S.

Federal immigration enforcement efforts [escalated significantly](#) in 2025 nationally, regionally, and in Oakland, destabilizing the lives of immigrants in our city and negatively impacting their ability to access community and social services.

[Existing California state law](#) allows off-duty peace officers to seek secondary employment, independently contract, or volunteer with federal immigration agencies. Peace officers; such as those in the Oakland Police Department, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, and the California Highway Patrol; are entrusted with sensitive information about members of our immigrant community. Sensitive personal information can include identity and biographical information, contact and location information, victim and witness information, criminal history, and traffic records.

Sensitive personal information that is accessible to peace officers can place Oakland's immigrants at risk if intentionally or unintentionally shared with federal immigration authorities while off duty. It is crucial for the safety and wellbeing of our community that our immigrant

community can trust peace officers without fear that their personal information or any information that they share with an officer will be used for federal immigration enforcement.

Assembly Bill 1537 (Bryan)

[California Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1537](#), introduced by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, would prohibit a peace officer from being employed by, or being an independent contractor of or volunteer for, the United States Department of Homeland Security or its contractors or any other entity that assists with or engages in immigration enforcement; and it would require a peace officer to report to their employing law enforcement agency any secondary employment relating to immigration enforcement.

AB 1537 would provide that failure to comply with the secondary employment restriction constitutes an act of dishonesty and is grounds for decertification as a peace officer, and the bill would also explicitly state that records related to secondary employment of peace officers are public records for the purposes of the California Public Records Act.

By ensuring that our peace officers' ability to explore secondary employment opportunities does not come into conflict with our commitment to protecting our immigrant communities, AB 1537 will help Oakland more effectively embody our Sanctuary City status.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RB' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Rowena Brown
City of Oakland, Councilmember At Large