

Madalyn Letellier

From: Courtney Pollack [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 12:06 AM
To: All City Council; Public Comments
Cc: Mayor
Subject: Please Vote No on Items that Require Cooperation with DHS, Thank you

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Dear City Councilors,

I'm writing to urge the city council to vote No on several requests from the mayor that require cooperation with DHS. These requests, that the Committee on Finance recommended for approval on Feb 24, 2026, and which relate to the Feb 26, 2026 city council meeting agenda item [26-0276](#), violate Somerville's Welcome Community Ordinance, jeopardize our collective safety, and sell out members of our community.

Item [26-0055](#): Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$618,181.81 grant that requires a match, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Fire Department for the replacement of aging breathing apparatus.

Please vote No on this item and fund the breathing apparatus for the Fire Department another way. The award letter attached to item 26-0055 shows this FY 2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant requires compliance with Article 11: Communication and Cooperation with the DHS and Immigration Officials (p. 13). As examples, if Somerville accepts this grant, Somerville agrees to: participate in joint immigration enforcement operations with DHS, not "leak or publicize" these operations, share immigration-related information with DHS, honor requests for "detention of an alien," provide immigration officers with "access to detainees" if the officer suspects the detainee is a "removable alien," and not restrict data sharing with DHS regarding "citizenship or immigration status of any individual." Item 26-0055 alone appears to violate the majority of the Welcoming Community Ordinance (2-6.e): (1) Equal treatment, (2) Inquiries about immigration status, (3) Role of police in immigration enforcement, (4) Ice detainers and administrative warrants, (5) Federal requests for information, (7) Notice to individuals subject to ICE interventions, (8) ICE access to facilities, (10) Raids and other immigration enforcement actions, and (11) Deputizing of local officials. A Yes vote to accept this grant communicates that the City of Somerville will partner with DHS for immigration enforcement and that residents are unsafe interacting with city officers and employees. This violates our values and makes our city less safe.

Item [26-0156](#): Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$48,000 grant with no new match required, from Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) to the Fire Department for the replacement of security cameras at fire headquarters.

Please vote No on this item and fund the security cameras another way. The award letter specifies these funds come from a DHS-funded FY2024 UASI grant (CFDA 97.067). As the FY2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity ([NOFO](#)) stipulates, grant terms and conditions require that grantees allocate 30% of grant funds across six priority areas, which include "Enhancing information and intelligence sharing and analysis, (p. 7)." Example activities for this priority area include information sharing and cooperation with DHS related to immigration enforcement and border security (p. 30). It is unclear how much of this grant is allocated to intelligence sharing and analysis or other cooperation with

DHS, but any amount violates our Welcoming Community Ordinance and communicates that residents are unsafe interacting with city officers and employees. This is not worth \$48,000.

Item [26-0168](#): Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$50,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for target hardening at the Police Department headquarters.

Please vote No on this item and fund this work another way. The award letter specifies these funds also come from a DHS-funded UASI grant (CFDA 97.067), but from FY2023. The FY2023 [NOFO](#) specifies that grantees are required to allocate at least 3% of grant funds to "Enhancing information and intelligence sharing and analysis," with activities as above. This is not worth \$50,000.

I believe we have shared goals to protect immigrant communities in Somerville, to uphold the values our city has codified, to safeguard trust in our community, and to protect "everyone's dignity and humanity ... where all feel welcome and safe," ([EO 2026-01](#)). I know we're working quite hard to maintain these goals in the face of extreme federal pressure. It's difficult for me to see how approving the above items can align with our shared goals and hard work. Please reject each of these requests and instead continue to uphold our shared values and city ordinances, and protect public safety and all Somerville residents from federal targeting and mistreatment.

Thank you for considering my comments,
Courtney Pollack
Ward 2