

Bill No. 3-26
Concerning: Administration – Immigration
Enforcement Guidance – Required
(The County Values Act)
Revised: 3/18/2026 Draft No. 4
Introduced: January 20, 2026
Enacted: March 24, 2026
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: None
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Mink
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Stewart, Jawando, Friedson, Evans, Sayles, Glass, and Council Vice
President Balcombe

AN ACT to:

- (1) require the County Executive to develop and publish certain guidance related to immigration enforcement action at County facilities;
- (2) require County departments to adopt certain policies consistent with the Executive’s guidance;
- (3) limit access to certain areas for immigration enforcement, subject to certain conditions; and
- (4) generally amend the laws regarding County administration and immigration enforcement in the County.

By adding

Chapter 2, Administration
Article ~~[[XV]]~~ XVI, Immigration Enforcement Guidance
Sections ~~[[2-160,]]~~ 2-161, 2-162, 2-163, 2-164, ~~[[2-165[[, and 2-166]]~~

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[[Single boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

28 County-owned or County-controlled property means real property owned,
 29 leased, or otherwise under the control or management authority of the County,
 30 including parking lots, garages, and vacant lots.

31 Department means any executive branch County department, agency, division,
 32 or other body, or person established by authority of an order, executive order, or
 33 County Council order.

34 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) means the federal enforcement
 35 agency responsible for enforcing civil immigration law, which may also include
 36 any entity or personnel authorized to enforce civil immigration law.

37 Staging area means an area used to assemble, mobilize, or deploy vehicles,
 38 equipment, materials, or personnel for carrying out civil immigration
 39 enforcement operations.

40 **2-163. ICE access in County facilities – warrant requirement.**

41 (a) A County employee or contractor must not grant an ICE officer access or
 42 assist an officer in entering any portion of a County facility that is not
 43 accessible to the general public, unless:

- 44 (1) there are exigent circumstances; or
- 45 (2) the officer presents a valid warrant issued by a federal court.

46 (b) Nothing in this Section authorizes a County employee or contractor to
 47 interfere with, restrict, or impede an immigration officer when access has
 48 been denied or consent to entry has been withheld.

49 **2-164.] Prohibition on use of County property for ICE enforcement.**

50 (a) Any County-owned or County-controlled parking lot, garage, or vacant
 51 lot must not be used for ICE enforcement activities, including
 52 surveillance, staging, processing, detention, or vehicle storage, unless
 53 required by law or authorized by a valid judicial warrant.

- 54 (b) Any area or space identified under subsection (d) is not available to the
55 general public for similar activities described under subsection (a); in
56 addition, federal, state, or local government entities or personnel will not
57 receive special or enhanced access to County property for civil
58 immigration enforcement operations.
- 59 (c) This ~~[[section]]~~ Section does not apply to~~[[~~:
60 (1)~~]]~~ any temporary access necessary to address an immediate threat to
61 public safety~~]]~~; or
62 (2) publicly available areas open to the general public, where the
63 County lacks legal authority to restrict entry~~]]~~.
- 64 (d) The County Executive must identify all County-owned or controlled
65 parking lots, vacant lots, or garages that either have been used or are
66 likely to be used in the future as a staging area, processing location, or
67 operations base for civil immigration enforcement.
- 68 (e) The County Executive must ensure that all such County properties
69 identified under subsection (d) have clear signage stating:
70 “This property is owned or controlled by Montgomery County. It may
71 not be used for civil immigration enforcement as a: Staging Area,
72 Processing Location, or Operations Base.”
- 73 (f) The County Executive must ensure that, wherever appropriate, physical
74 barriers such as locked gates are used to limit access to County-owned or
75 County-controlled parking lots, vacant lots, or garages consistent with the
76 purpose of this Section.
- 77 (g) ~~[[Reporting unauthorized use. A County employee who becomes aware~~
78 ~~of the unauthorized use of County-owned or County-controlled property~~
79 ~~must immediately report the violation to the employee’s department~~
80 ~~director. A reported violation must include as much information as~~

81 possible, including time, location, and a description of what was
 82 observed. Failure to report unauthorized use of property may result in
 83 disciplinary action.]]

84 Reporting a violation or misconduct. A County agent, resident, or a
 85 member of the public who witnesses any of the following incidents may
 86 file a report through an online platform designated by the Executive
 87 regarding:

- 88 (1) unauthorized use of County-owned or County-controlled property,
 89 in violation of subsection (a) of this Section;
- 90 (2) unauthorized access to nonpublic spaces of County facilities; or
- 91 (3) harmful conduct by individuals conducting immigration
 92 enforcement.

93 (h) A violation reported under subsection (g) should include as much
 94 information as possible, including time, location, and a description of
 95 what was observed.

96 (i) The violation reported through the online portal may be used by the
 97 Office of County Attorney to assist in enforcing the law and to make
 98 appropriate referrals to third parties, including other government
 99 agencies.

100 **[[2-165.]] 2-164. Immigration enforcement guidance for County departments.**

101 (a) Guidance by the County Executive. The County Executive, in
 102 consultation with the Office of the County Attorney, must create and
 103 publish immigration enforcement guidance for County [[staff and
 104 contractors]] agents that perform work in or at County-owned or County-
 105 controlled facilities. The guidance must:

- 106 (1) establish an immigration enforcement action plan that provides a
 107 step-by-step process if ICE visits a County facility;

- 108 (2) indicate the process a facility should use when designating certain
 109 areas for public or non-public use;
- 110 (3) include model policies and sample scripts covering various
 111 scenarios involving potential ICE interaction;
- 112 (4) explain how to distinguish between different types of warrants and
 113 civil detainers;
- 114 (5) include policies and practices for departments to guide interactions
 115 between County [[staff]] agents and ICE officials, ensuring that
 116 immigration enforcement activities are carried out in the least
 117 disruptive and safest possible manner;
- 118 (6) include measures that would limit liability exposure for County
 119 [[staff]] agents at County facilities; and
- 120 (7) include recommendations for complying with existing legal
 121 obligations and limitations at County facilities while balancing
 122 public safety and accessibility at those facilities.
- 123 (b) Responsibilities of each Department. Unless otherwise required by state
 124 law, each department must:
- 125 (1) ensure County [[employees and contractors are trained on the
 126 Executive’s policies and guidance]] agents that perform work in or
 127 at County-owned or County-controlled facilities are trained on the
 128 Executive’s policies and guidance;
- 129 (2) designate a supervisor or manager to serve as the designated
 130 official responsible for handling visits by ICE;
- 131 (3) provide a phone number for frontline staff to contact a designated
 132 official at any time;
- 133 (4) [[where applicable, identify areas that are open to the general
 134 public and post signage at the entrance that states: “Not open to the

135 public. You do not have consent to enter for civil immigration
 136 enforcement purposes without authorization from a designated
 137 official”; and]]

138 where applicable, identify areas and post signage:

139 (A) at the entrances of County facilities that state: “Montgomery
 140 County does not consent to civil immigration enforcement
 141 operations on these premises,” and

142 (B) at entrances of non-public spaces that state: “Not Open To
 143 The General Public. Only authorized individuals permitted.
 144 A County agent may not consent to entrance for civil
 145 immigration enforcement without authorization from a
 146 designated official”; and

147 (5) include any other department-specific measures to assist County
 148 [[staff]] agents in balancing the interaction with ICE.

149 (c) Signage for private use. The County Executive must develop and make
 150 available on the County’s website a signage template [[available on the
 151 County’s website for]] that business owners and leaseholders [[to]] may
 152 use to lawfully notify visitors that the property may not be used for
 153 immigration enforcement by ICE. [[The owner or lessee may choose to
 154 use the signage template to identify and lawfully restrict non-public areas
 155 in which they would prohibit activities related to civil immigration
 156 enforcement.]]

157 (d) Executive regulations. The County Executive may, under Method 3,
 158 establish regulations and standards as necessary to accomplish the
 159 purposes and intent of this Article. The regulations must be at least as
 160 stringent and consistent as this Article.

161 **[[2-166.]] 2-165. Compliance with Federal law.**

162 No provision in this Article may be interpreted as preventing a law enforcement
163 agent from sending or receiving information from any local, state, or Federal
164 agency regarding the citizenship or immigration status of an individual in
165 accordance with applicable federal or constitutional law.

166 **Sec 2. Implementation - required.** On or before the effective date of this Act, the
167 County Executive must develop and make available an online platform to implement
168 a public reporting system to receive information regarding incidents described in
169 Section 2-163(g).

Approved:



March 24, 2026

Natali Fani-González, President, County Council

Date

Approved:

Marc Elrich, County Executive

Date

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Sara R. Tenenbaum, Clerk of the Council

Date