

We understand your deep concerns about the ICE activity in Watertown on Monday, May 5.

We have been preparing for such an incident in Newton.

By law, our local police – the Newton Police Department - and Newton municipal officials may not interfere with federal agents exercising their authority. Importantly, the Newton Police Department does not aid, assist or play any role in ICE's efforts. That said, ICE does have broad authority to enforce immigration laws in cities and towns throughout the United States.

If we learn of an incident within the City of Newton involving the potential violation of a suspected immigrant's civil rights, we will quickly alert the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General. We have already been in meetings with the Attorney General's Office and know who to contact.

It may be helpful to know that Newton's Health and Human Services webpage also directs residents to resources at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office for those wanting to know more about the rights afforded to immigrants. That link is

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/resources-for-immigrants-in-massachusetts>

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller and Newton Chief of Police George McMains