

# Resolution opposing use of masks by ICE agents apprehending individuals at the federal courthouse at 201 Varick Street.

## WHEREAS

1. **Local Impact:** The federal immigration courthouse at 201 Varick Street lies within the boundaries of Community District 2, Manhattan [5]. Together with nearby facilities at 26 Federal Plaza and 290 Broadway [6,7], located in Community District 1, it has been at the center of visible and questionable immigration enforcement operations [8,9], including the detention and/or deportation of NYC public school students [10-12]; and
2. **Escalation of Enforcement:** ICE arrested at least 2,365 immigrants in the NYC area between January and June 2025, a 200% increase from the five months before the start of the Trump presidency [1,2]. Officers making these arrests often wear masks, cover identification tags, and otherwise obscure their identity, claiming that these steps are necessary to protect them from "[doxing](#)"; and
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** The use of masked and unmarked Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents is intimidating and undermines basic transparency, accountability, and the rule of law [3,4]; and
4. **Local Responsibility:** CB2 affirms its responsibility to comment on how law enforcement - even by federal officers - operates within our district. This resolution reflects our community's values, including expectations for safety and accountability [13,14]; and
5. **Public Safety Risks:** The "uniform" of unmarked agents wearing masks has facilitated criminal acts around the country by bad actors posing as ICE agents, including robberies and kidnappings. Such impersonations erode public trust and endanger immigrant and non-immigrant residents alike [15-19]; and
6. **Constitutional Violations:** Federal courts have repeatedly found ICE and DHS to engage in unconstitutional or unlawful practices, including racial profiling, Fourth Amendment violations, and immigration court policy violations [20-26]. With

respect to courthouse arrests, these practices create a “trap” for immigrants— forcing them to choose between asserting their legal rights or risking detention [23,24]. This erodes due process and other constitutional protections, undermining trust in the U.S. justice system on which all communities rely.

7. **Current Actions:** Initiatives such as the MELT Act, and advocacy from organizations such as the NYCLU, ACLU, Make the Road NY, and others, aim to bar the practice of courthouse arrests by officers whose identities have been obscured [3,4, 13,14, 24,25, 36-39]; and

## **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT COMMUNITY BOARD 2, MANHATTAN**

1. Opposes the use of masks in law enforcement and finds concerns about “doxing” to be secondary to the value of transparency and accountability as essential requirements for public trust in law enforcement; and
  2. Supports efforts by elected officials and advocacy organizations to end courthouse arrests and to bar practices that mask officers’ identities, and affirms that courthouse arrests undermine public confidence in the justice system.
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