



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

*Quaker values in action*



Dear Sheriff,

We, the undersigned faith leaders and faith-based organizations, wish to express our support for the new RESPECT policies that recognize and respect the inherent dignity and worth of every member of our community. We believe policies that equally uphold the civil and human rights of immigrants enhance, strengthen and energize our neighborhoods and communities. As leaders of diverse faith communities in Colorado, we hope you adopt the RESPECT policies rejecting voluntary collaboration between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Sheriff's Department (e.g. 48 hour holds, administrative warrants, jail access and voluntary reporting).

We are concerned about these programs for the following reasons:

- **Your office is committed to protecting families and children. Our faiths call us to celebrate and sanctify family (chosen or biological) as the hearth at which love is learned. Detainers and other Immigration programs separate families.** For many in the immigrant community, their faith community is the only institutional support available and we are therefore increasingly aware of the human costs of collaboration between local law enforcement and immigration. We walk with families torn apart by the immigration system. They bear the financial and emotional burdens of fighting their deportation. Our communities stretch our resources to help them recover the interruption of income and support. Far too often, deportation is the outcome, resulting in divided families, shattered lives and fear. We accompany families to immigration court, hearing time and again that some initial minor contact with local law enforcement has led to people being trapped in our inhumane immigration system. ICE has and will put people suspected of being deportable directly into the detention and deportation system, regardless of the outcome of the issue for which they were arrested. Detainer and other similar immigration programs will separate families.
- **Our sense of community is rooted in trust and dignity. Detainers and other Immigration programs weaken community and leave local law enforcement holding the blame.** Where we would normally counsel members of our faith communities to contact the police, we have encountered a greater reluctance to report. Many people live in mixed status households, and both citizens and immigrants alike, have been unwilling to contact law enforcement due to concerns about possible deportation. These concerns grow out of the reality that arrests in Colorado have repeatedly led to just that, deportation. Immigration and local law enforcement collaboration damages the relationship between communities and local law enforcement, putting the safety of our communities and vulnerable members of our communities in jeopardy.
- **The rejection of racial and ethnic stereotyping is fundamental to our work as faith communities committed to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of a Beloved Community.** Relying on detainers and other immigration programs confuses the role of

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local law enforcement, leading local public safety agencies to make judgments based on skin color and language skills when deciding to arrest or hold “suspected” undocumented immigrants. The creation of communities where conflict is peacefully resolved relies on developing a shared vision of what justice means and that vision being equally applied and inclusive across diverse communities.

As clergy we witness intimately the positive impact stability can have on the health of our congregations and neighborhoods. Your office can further contribute to stability through promoting safety and community trust. We endorse the RESPECT policies proposed by the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition as model policies and ask you to adopt them.

We have hope that the discussion of these new policies will act as a bridge to building stronger community and trust between your office, our faith communities, and the immigrant community.

Sincerely,\*

**Faith Based Organizations**

The American Friends Service Committee

*Rev Barbara Eaton Molfese*

Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder  
Lafayette

The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado

*Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry, Minister*

Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship  
Lafayette, CO

Together Colorado

**Adams County**

*Rev. Kristi K. Beebe*

Nativity Lutheran Church, ELCA  
Commerce City

**Arapahoe**

*Rev. Anne D. Dunlap*

*Rev. Tisa Roberts*  
Chadash Community UCC  
Aurora, CO

*Rev. Kae Madden, Pastor*

Members of the parish council & social justice  
ministry team

Church of the Beloved Ecumenical Catholic  
Community  
Northglenn, CO

*Bhuwan Pyakurel*

Bhutanese/Nepali Community Leader  
Hinduism  
Aurora, CO

**Boulder**

*Rabbi Joshua Rose*

Congregation Har HaShem  
Boulder, CO

*Rev. Wayne A. Laws,*  
United Church of Christ

*Rev. John Petty, Pastor*  
All Saints Lutheran  
Aurora

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*Fr. Stephen Adams, Pastor*  
St. Pius X Catholic Church  
Aurora

*Rev. Daniel Klawitter*  
Burns Memorial United Methodist Church  
Aurora

*Rev. Kelly Dignan*  
Unitarian Universalist  
Littleton, CO

*M. Daniel Carroll R. (Rodas), PhD*  
Distinguished Professor of Old Testament  
Denver Seminary  
Littleton, CO

**Denver**

*Rev. Dr. David Bahr, Minister*  
Park Hill Congregational Church  
Denver, CO

*Rabbi Evette Lutman of B'nai Havurah*  
Denver's Jewish Reconstructionist  
Congregation  
Denver, CO

*Rev. Eric Strader, Senior Pastor*  
Christ Church United Methodist  
Denver, CO

*Rev. Susan McKee, Minister for Interfaith  
Relations*  
Park Hill Congregational Church UCC  
Denver, CO

*Rev. Nancy Rosas*  
Washington Park UCC  
Denver, CO

*Gerardo Brambila, Vicar*  
Our Merciful Savior Episcopal Church  
Denver, CO

*Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre*  
Professor of Social Ethics and Latino/a Studies  
Iiff School of Theology  
Denver, CO

*Rev. Dr. Vern Rempel, Pastor*  
First Mennonite Church  
Denver

*Rev. Linda Marshall*  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Denver

*Imam Djilali Kacem*  
Northeast Metro Denver Islamic Center  
Northglenn

*Monsignor Robert L. Amundsen*  
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
Lafayette

*Rev. Paul J. Kottke*  
Senior Pastor  
University Park United Methodist Church  
Denver

*Rabbi Brian P. Immerman*  
Temple Emanuel  
Denver

*Rev. Bonita Bock*  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
(ELCA)  
Denver

*Rev. Mark Meeks*  
Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church  
Denver

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*Rabbi Bernard Gerson, Spiritual Leader*  
Congregation Rodef Shalom  
Denver

*Michelle Warren, MPA*  
Advocacy & Policy Engagement, CCDA  
Evangelical Immigration Table Partner  
Metro Denver

*Val Stepien, Order of Interbeing*  
Eyes of Compassion Sangha  
United Buddhist Church  
Denver

**Douglas**  
*Rev. Jann Halloran, Pastor*  
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church  
Parker, CO

**El Paso County**  
*Rev. James Chapman, Pastor*  
Broadmoor UCC  
Colorado Springs

*Andrew Palmer, Sensei*  
The Open Source  
Colorado Springs

*Fr. Cyrus Gallagher, ofm. Cap.*  
Catholic Center at the Citadel Mall  
Colorado Springs

*Rev. Roger Butts*  
Unitarian Universalist Community Minister  
Colorado Springs

*Rev. Dr. Nori J. Rost*  
Minister, All Souls Unitarian Universalist  
Church  
Colorado Springs

*Merv Birky, Pastor*  
Beth-El Mennonite Church  
Colorado Springs

*Joe Barrera*  
Colorado Springs Black/Latino Coalition  
Colorado Springs

**Fremont County**  
*Mary Derbort, BeFriender Ministry*  
*Coordinator,*  
St. Michael Parish  
Canon City

*Rev. Robert Kippley, Pastor*  
ELCA  
Canon City

**Garfield**  
*Reverend Stephan Papa*  
Two Rivers Unitarian Universalists,  
Carbondale, CO

*Fr. Bert Chilson, Pastor*  
St. Stephen Parish & School  
Glenwood Springs

**Jefferson County**  
*Rev. Nadine Swahnberg, Community minister*  
Jefferson Unitarian Church  
Golden, CO

*The Rev. Dr. Terry Purvis-Smith, Pastor*  
Presbyterian Church-USA  
Westminster, CO

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### **Larimer**

*Rev. Gretchen Haley, Associate Minister*  
Foothills Unitarian Church  
Fort Collins, CO

*Susan G Ferguson, Chair*  
Social Justice Council  
Foothills Unitarian Church  
Fort Collins, CO

*Jeff Wright, Pastor*  
Heart of the Rockies Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Fort Collins

### **Pueblo**

*Rev. Gary Weaver, Presbyterian*  
Pueblo West, CO  
Deacon Dan Leetch  
Diocese of Pueblo, Bishop's Pastoral Associate  
Pueblo

*Rev. Jeannine E. Lamb*  
United Church of Christ  
Pueblo

*Rev. Dr. Neema Caughran*  
Center for Inner Peace  
Pueblo

### **Weld**

*Rev. Ben Konecny*  
Associate Minister  
First Congregational Church, UCC  
Greeley

*Rev. Eric Banner*  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley

*Pastor Rigo Magana*  
New Hope Christian Fellowship  
Greeley

### **Other**

*Rev. Amy Mendez,*  
Pastor for Church Development  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

*Rev. Kierstin Homblette*  
Beloved Community Coordinator  
Unitarian Universalist Congregations of  
Colorado

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