

BARNSTABLE COUNTY

In the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 17-10

Whereas, the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office has applied to have its officers deputized as agents of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and;

Whereas, participation in this program would allow the Sheriff's Department to detain individuals whose legal status has been cleared, based solely on suspicions about their immigration status, raising the concern of racial profiling, and;

Whereas, this threat would tend to discourage anyone of uncertain immigration status from interactions with the police, and;

Whereas, Police departments across the Cape have adopted community policing- which focuses on police building ties and working closely with members of the communities- that would be adversely affected by the perception that interactions with police could result in deportation proceedings, and;

Whereas, the seasonal economy of Cape Cod is critically dependent on foreign workers, who may find the environment threatening, and therefore seek employment elsewhere, with a potentially devastating effect on local business, and;

Although the Sheriff's Office is not a function of Barnstable County Regional Government, it does and will have authority in relation to the residents of this county that will be expanded only in relation to the specific group of residents who are immigrants to the US, though an opaque and unaccountable process, and;

Whereas, the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts ruled last year, found detainers by local law enforcement to be illegal;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates:

Does not support the pursuit of a 287g agreement with the federal government.

(Submitted by Provincetown Delegate Brian O'Malley at a regular Assembly of Delegates meeting on November 15, 2017 and amended on December 6, 2017)