



## **Role of Metuchen Police Department in Immigration Enforcement**

We know that some residents, business employees and visitors may have questions about immigration enforcement and what it means here in Metuchen. We want to provide clear and accurate information about the role of the Metuchen Police Department under New Jersey law.

The Borough of Metuchen is here to serve everyone in our community. Consistent with longstanding practice and guidance from the New Jersey Attorney General, Metuchen Police officers do not ask about a person's immigration status when providing routine services or when someone seeks assistance. All residents should feel safe contacting our Police Department, reporting crimes, or asking for help when it is needed.

It is also important to understand the limits of local authority. Federal immigration enforcement is the responsibility of federal agencies and is not coordinated by the Metuchen Police Department. We are not always notified when federal activity occurs in or near the community. When notification does occur, New Jersey and federal law prohibits local officials and police departments from interfering with or obstructing a federal investigation in any way.

To provide clarity, the following reflects Metuchen Police Department practices under New Jersey law:

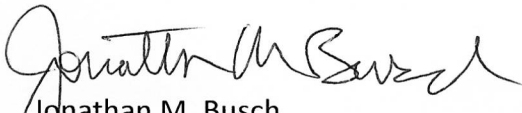
- Officers do not stop, question, or detain individuals for the purpose of determining immigration status.
- We do not participate in federal civil immigration enforcement operations.
- We do not provide local law enforcement resources or assistance for civil immigration enforcement.
- Officers do not inquire about immigration status unless it is directly relevant and necessary to the investigation of a serious criminal offense, consistent with state law and policy.
- When interaction with federal authorities is legally required, our Police Department's role is limited to the minimum assistance required by law, and no more.

New Jersey has also published a "Know Your Rights: Immigrant Rights" resource that explains the rights of individuals when interacting with law enforcement and government agencies.

Residents may review that document here:

[https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njnewamericans/newcomers/docs/KnowYourRights-com\\_en.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njnewamericans/newcomers/docs/KnowYourRights-com_en.pdf)

Metuchen is strongest when residents support one another, trust local government, and feel comfortable seeking help, asking questions, and engaging with public institutions. If you or anyone you know requires assistance from the Borough or the Metuchen Police Department, just ask. We are here for everyone.



Jonathan M. Busch  
Mayor, Borough of Metuchen



Arthur Flaherty  
Chief of Police, Metuchen Police Department  
Coordinator, Office of Emergency Management