

General Committee Meeting Report February 24, 2026

Committee members present: Alderman Talbott, Alderman Cupoli, Alderman Adams, Alderman Clifford, Alderwoman Tadio

Other officials present: Alderwoman Davis, Mayor Doenges, Planner Bove, Alderwoman McClure

Others present: Alexandria Perone, Cathy Solsaa, Susan Schreibman, Mary Crowley, Beth Baara, Jan Ryan, Jean Ray, Diane Alberts, Dave Coppock, Don Tadio, Eric Solsaa, Larry Walter, Tom Fagan, Darian Fagan, Andy Olanoff, Candi Jones, Norman Cohen

The General Committee met on February 25 to consider a proposed resolution (attached) regarding federal immigration enforcement activities. The draft resolution was based on language from the Mayor's recent executive statement and Vermont House Resolution H.R. 12.

Committee members expressed differing views. Some stated that immigration enforcement is a federal matter outside the jurisdiction of local government and questioned whether a symbolic resolution would have any practical effect. Others emphasized the importance of speaking out on issues affecting residents' safety and sense of security, noting that a resolution could reaffirm community values even without legal force.

The meeting included extensive public comment. Numerous residents spoke in favor of the resolution, describing fear and uncertainty among immigrant and refugee communities and urging the City to make a clear statement supporting constitutional protections, due process, and community safety. Several speakers referenced Rutland's prior Declaration of Inclusion and other statements affirming the City's welcoming character. All recognized the purely symbolic nature of the resolution.

Discussion focused particularly on language in Section 2 of the draft, which addressed identification of federal agents and the presentation of judicial warrants prior to entering private residences. Possible amendments were discussed, but the committee ultimately considered the resolution in its existing form.

Following debate, a motion was made and seconded to recommend that the full Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution. The committee voted 3-2 to advance the resolution to the Board for further consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 6:27pm.

**CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY STABILITY IN
RESPONSE TO FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

WHEREAS, recent federal immigration enforcement activities have generated concern and uncertainty among residents of the City of Rutland; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States guarantees due process of law, equal protection, and the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rutland has a responsibility to promote public safety, community stability, and the protection of civil rights for all residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT:

1. The Board of Aldermen affirms its commitment to the constitutional rights of all persons within the City of Rutland.
2. The Board calls upon federal immigration enforcement personnel operating within Rutland to do so in a manner consistent with constitutional protections and the rule of law, including clear identification as federal agents, the avoidance of practices that conceal identity from the public absent compelling safety reasons, and the presentation of a valid judicial warrant prior to entering a private residence.
3. The Board supports access to accurate information and the right of residents to express their views through lawful, peaceful means.

ADOPTED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Rutland, Vermont, on this ____ day of _____, 2026.