

Imagine ROSEVILLE

Discussion III Report: Community Aspirations and Immigration





Community Discussion III

MAY 3-4, 2017 | Marquita Stephens, Facilitator

The City of Roseville along with the Roseville Area Schools, commission members, residents and others began hosting a series of dialogues in the community in 2016. These discussions grew out of a tragic shooting that occurred near Roseville’s border and its impact on students in the Roseville Area School District, and subsequent media attention, as well as conversations happening locally and nationally surrounding police and community relations.

Imagine Roseville, the title of the City’s 2005 visioning effort, was reimaged as a community engagement mechanism through a series of discussions to ensure Roseville is a community where people make connections amidst changing demographics. The outcome of these discussions could lead to various actions or to nothing at all. They are entirely directed by the citizens involved and reported publicly, which allows the engagement of others.

In October 2016, community members came together in the first Imagine Roseville event/conversation to discuss how to address the needs of the community in the aftermath of the shooting. Residents raised the question “How do we build ourselves as a multicultural city?” This question recognized the changing demographics seen most handily in our schools. Participants also encouraged the city to make Roseville a leader and model for communities in being welcoming and inclusive. This too, reflected a desire to get ahead of any impact changes may bring.

The first Imagine Roseville community conversation, including the final report, is available for review on the City of Roseville’s website

The third Imagine Roseville discussion, *Community Aspirations and Immigration*, was held over two nights at Roseville Area High School on May 3 and the Roseville Skating Center on May 4, 2017.

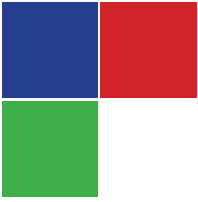
Background

At the December 1, 2016, second Imagine Roseville community meeting, approximately 70 residents gathered to recommend a course of action as a follow-up to the Community Conversations held earlier in the year in the aftermath of the Philando Castile shooting. [Eight questions](#) were presented and residents were encouraged to choose the one most mirroring their area of interest. The overwhelming majority chose question 5.

5. Social Issues

The recent election has created a platform for the discussion of race, racism, bias, prejudice, white supremacy, homophobia and xenophobia. Election rhetoric about deportation of people due to religious practices or about being in the U.S. illegally has created tension among some citizens and emboldened others.

What course of action should we take, as a community and as individual neighbors, to address these fears and tensions to insure forward movement in our ongoing development as a multicultural city?



Discussion Format

Imagine Roseville III Day 1 included a panel of experts who provided an overview of immigration policies

Participants offered many ideas a community could take to address immigration issues, including becoming a sanctuary city, holding open discussions, creating safe zones or creating opportunities for residents to get outside their comfort zone.

Participants also asked for more information about policing policies and practices.

Following the December meeting, the facilitator held two smaller meetings, inviting the community conversation participants to help refine the next steps. Based on their feedback the Imagine Roseville Planning Committee suggested that a panel be assembled to provide information on what it would mean to designate Roseville as a sanctuary city. This would enable residents to come to an informed decision about how to proceed on the matter of immigration enforcement within its boundaries.

DAY 1

The community conversation was structured as a two-night event. The first night discussion was held at the Roseville Area High School and approximately 70 individuals attended. A panel of experts provided an overview about immigration policies and processes in light of the increased federal activity in enforcement. In addition, there was an opportunity for participants to pose questions to the panelists. This discussion was taped and is available on the [City's YouTube channel](#).

Panelists

- **Kelly Dolphin**, immigration attorney in private practice and member of the Lauderdale city council
- **Amiin Huarn**, immigration attorney and former refugee working with the Immigrant Law Project
- **Jana Kooren**, attorney and Public Education and Communications Director, [ACLU Minnesota](#)
- **Catalina Morales**, organizer for Isaiah, an immigrant from Mexico with [DACA](#) status

In addition, other individuals were present to serve as resources to the audience for the purpose of answering questions. Those individuals were:

- **Dan Roe**, Roseville Mayor
- **Patrick Trudgeon**, Roseville City Manager
- **Rick Mathwig**, Roseville Chief of Police
- **Mickey Schuneman**, International Institute of Minnesota, Refugee Resettlement

Statements presented during the panelist discussion and/or the Question and Answer period have been summarized below. Responses may have come from more than one panelist.

What does it mean to be a Sanctuary City?

- The term "Sanctuary City" is not useful as it can too easily create the impression that Roseville is an asylum for immigrants. This is a misunderstanding of the intent and purpose of the recommended action. There is no standard legal definition of the term.
- If pursuing an action surrounding the issue of how law enforcement handles immigration status, there are several different ways to go about doing so. The action under consideration can be expressed in one of three forms:
 - a) Proclamation, a basic recognition of the issue; carries no legal force,
 - b) Resolution which lays out city policy for immigration enforcement and carries the same type of consequence customary with policy infractions, and
 - c) Ordinance what's referred to as a Separation Ordinance and comes with legally enforceable consequences. Recommendations were made that the Immigration, Customs and Enforcement (ICE) hold be addressed as part of a Separation Ordinance.



- Cities that currently have a Separation Ordinance include Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Northfield. (*Editor's note – Northfield passed a resolution, not a separation ordinance*)
- [Minneapolis](#) - Employee Authority in Immigration, passed in 2003
- [St. Paul](#) - Employee Authority in Immigration Matters, passed in 2004
- [Northfield](#) - Resolution affirming the City of Northfield's Commitment to be a Safe, Inclusive and Welcoming Community for All, passed in 2016

What happens when someone is detained based on immigration status?

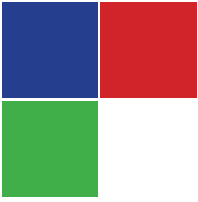
- Roseville does not operate a jail or detention center. Any person under arrest is taken to the Ramsey County sheriff's facility and is held under their rules. A separation ordinance in Roseville would have no impact on that process. In Roseville, it would mean that when someone is apprehended for a crime, e.g., burglary, robbery, assault, etc. they are not asked their immigration status.
- If arrested and booked at a jail, it is the prerogative of the facility whether immigration status will be assessed and any resultant actions.
- U.S. citizens are not deported. Green Card holders are lawful permanent residents. It is the closest status to citizenship. However, they too, can be deported because they are not U.S. citizens.
- Any arrest can open up possible investigation into a person's status.
- Currently, ICE is the only law enforcement agency charged with detaining someone solely based on immigration status.

How did people from other countries get here?

- Panelist Amiin Huarn presented an overview of the European colonization of Somalia. It was divided among a few countries, resulting in the separation of the Somali people into other nearby countries, Kenya, etc. This separation of relatives and divisions of tribes was never accepted by Somalis and created warring among its people even after Europeans left the area. Refugee camps, initially thought to be temporary by the Somali inhabitants, lasted decades and eventually led to the immigration of these refugees to Europe and their allies, e.g., America. The Somali government collapsed in 1991. Ms. Morales supported Mr. Huarn's point by indicating that "to understand immigration, you have to understand foreign policy." Refugees, as a group, would prefer to be able to live peaceably in their native country. No matter what country a person comes from "if you are not a citizen, you are always concerned about immigration/deportation."
- The designation of "refugee" status is made outside the U.S.; the designation "asylum seeker" is made by the U.S. This means that the term "refugee" is attached by the country of origin or their colonizer. U.S. officials determine if someone is admitted based on needing asylum.
- Persons can apply for a VISA before they come to the United States. It is not the same as a Green Card holder. Persons with a VISA are required to leave when the VISA expires.
- Ms. Morales is undocumented as she came as a child, but has Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, which allows her to legally work, get a driver's license, etc. However, there is no pathway to citizenship from DACA.

Other Communities

In addition to Roseville, the panel also discussed the policies of other Minnesota communities on the question of immigration



Roseville Currently

Attendees received information regarding Roseville's current policies from both a City Council and law enforcement perspective

What is the position of Roseville law enforcement?

- Police want immigrants/refugees to be able to use the police force when they need help, to report crime, and to share information about a crime without fear from the police. Safer communities will result.
- The City and State can't actively "thwart" a federal investigation or in any other way prevent federal agents from doing their job. However, that is different than having local law enforcement officers address federal immigration status as part of their duties. The federal government cannot legally require local authorities to do the job of federal agents and the Roseville Police Department currently does not have the budget to add the pursuit of illegal immigrants who are not involved in criminal activity to their duties.
- The local police force sees its job as protecting and serving local residents and property owners and does not inquire about immigration status when interacting with residents and visitors to Roseville. Police units will respond to criminal activity whether the suspect is an immigrant or not.
- If detained in jail, ICE agents have access to booking data that may cause them to contact the county about detaining the suspect. That action would not be a matter for the Roseville police as the jail or the policies it operates with is not in the City's jurisdiction.

What is the cost of detaining an undocumented person?

- It costs \$180/day to house someone in immigration proceeding. However, according to one of the panelists, more than \$800 million in taxes is paid by undocumented workers each year, resulting in a \$4.4 million economic benefit and in their absence about a \$2 billion loss in GDP.
- There are interests in establishing a private prison in Appleton, MN, fueling speculation about an increase in holding immigrants/refugees. However, Governor Dayton has said he wouldn't sign legislation for a private prison in Minnesota.
- How would the budget of the City of Roseville be impacted by a loss of federal funding as proposed by President Trump for cities designated as Sanctuary Cities (or its equivalent)?
- The loss of federal funding would be minimal. The City of Roseville does not receive direct federal funds outside of a few programs. Law enforcement in the city is not contingent upon federal funding.

Other miscellaneous comments:

- Being involved in Deportation proceedings requires an attorney to advocate for the person involved.
- The U nonimmigrant status (U VISA) is a visa for victims of certain crimes.



DAY 2

The second day of the two-day engagement process was attended by approximately 40 people and held at the Roseville Skating Center. The second night consisted of small roundtable discussions regarding possible actions that the city could consider.

The meeting opened with instructions from Mayor Dan Roe and opening remarks governing the structure of the evening by facilitator Marquita Stephens. Participants were directed to discuss what they wanted to recommend, if anything, and why.

The participants were provided a series of questions to focus the discussion. These questions were:

1. Should the City have a policy related to what role the City will or will not take in voluntary immigration enforcement?
2. Why should the City have/not have such a policy?
3. If the City SHOULD have a policy, what should the policy say? A range of examples of possible policies includes:
 - The City will proactively seek out any and all opportunities to engage in voluntary immigration enforcement activities
 - The City will affirmatively respond to certain requests from the Federal government to voluntarily assist in immigration enforcement activities. (If so, which types of requests should the City accept, and which should the City not accept?)
 - The City will not voluntarily participate in certain voluntary immigration enforcement activities (Indicate which activities)

- The City will not voluntarily participate in any voluntary immigration enforcement activities
4. If the City SHOULD NOT have a policy, what, if anything should the City do in relation to immigration enforcement issues?
 5. What should individuals or groups in the community do in relation to immigration enforcement issues

Two persons were not able to attend and sent emails documenting their positions. The emails were read to the group. Each table wrote their recommendation and related comments and submitted them to the facilitator at the conclusion of the evening. The report of each table is documented in an attachment to this report. All attendees voted for a separation ordinance with one abstention.

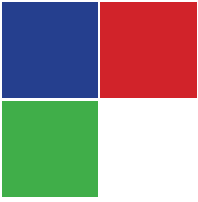
CONCLUSION

Evaluations and general commentary indicated the vast majority of those attending believed they received the information they sought, and not only was the panel quite informative but it also allayed some of their fears.

Interest in this issue extends to the greater community because Roseville is home to the Rosedale Mall and other large retail outlets frequented by those living outside Roseville. Those living outside of Roseville but work, have children in the school district or shop in Roseville want to know whether police-involved disturbances will increase and what kind of activity could those passing through Roseville expect to encounter if immigration enforcement practices change.

Resident Input

The second day of Imagine Roseville III featured round table discussions among residents regarding current and future City policy



With one exception, the Imagine Roseville participants from Day 2 recommended Roseville City Council enact a Separation Ordinance. Primary consideration was given to the following in recommending the city council take this action:

1. Roseville does not have a jail facility but uses a facility located in St. Paul which is where ICE involvement can/would be triggered,
2. Roseville police are involved in and would continue to be engaged in arrest activity “for cause” which does not involve ICE or any other agency outside its jurisdiction unless called in to assist,
3. The impact on the city’s budget is negligible if federal funding is withdrawn,
4. Roseville is geographically located between two major cities both of which have adopted separation ordinances, and,
5. The Roseville Police Department’s budget does not allow for increased activity by officers to proactively engage in immigration enforcement. This information allayed the fears and concerns of most participants. Action therefore centers on adoption of this recommendation as a values proposition.

All of the Imagine Roseville meetings have had a concern for others at their core, beginning with the initial meetings around the Philando Castile shooting. These discussions have allowed residents to listen, learn and discuss timely issues in the community. These conversations allow the City Council to gain further insight from residents as they work to make Roseville a welcoming and safe community.