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CITY OF DANBURY

155 DEER HILL AVENUE

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

COMMON COUNCIL

September 13, 2007

Mayor Mark Boughton
Members of the Common Council
City of Danbury
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, CT. 06810

Re: ICE ACCESS

Dear Mayor Boughton and Members of the Common Council,

Recently, the Department of Homeland Security introduced a new program that formalizes a strategic partnership between local municipalities and Immigration Customs and Enforcement.

We are aware and we appreciate your hard work on the issue of illegal immigration. We respectfully request that you ask our legal staff and the Chief of Police to study the feasibility of Danbury participating in the ICE ACCESS program while we wait for Congress to engage in comprehensive immigration reform.

As you may be aware, the town of Brewster, New York as well as 60 other municipalities across the United States has already decided to participate in this program.

Once again, thank you for your hard work on this issue.

Sincerely,

Pauline Basso
Majority Leader

Joe Cavo
Council President

Mary Saracino
Legislative Leader

First Ward:

Louise McMahon Louise McMahon Shailesh "Shay" Nagarsheth Shailesh Nagarsheth

Second Ward:

James H. Johnson James H. Johnson Charles J. Trombetta Charles J. Trombetta

Third Ward:

Michael J. Calandrino Michael Calandrino

Seventh Ward:

N. Jane Diggs N. Jane Diggs Mary E. Teicholz Mary E. Teicholz

Common Council At Large

Phillip Curran Phillip Curran

Robert T. Riley Robert T. Riley

Colleen Stanley Colleen Stanley

Gregg Seabury Gregg Seabury



News Releases

August 21, 2007

New ICE ACCESS program highlights various law enforcement partnerships *ICE and locals working together in different ways, for maximum effectiveness*

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today announces the new ICE ACCESS (Agreements of Cooperation in Communities to Enhance Safety and Security) program. ICE ACCESS will provide local law enforcement agencies an opportunity to team with ICE to combat specific challenges in their communities.

"Local law enforcement agencies have shown tremendous interest in working with ICE," said Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary, Julie L. Myers, who oversees ICE. "Combining federal, state and local resources has proven successful in safeguarding the public. Now, we want to build on that success by using ICE's unique authorities to further aid communities who seek our assistance."

ICE developed the ACCESS program in response to the widespread interest from local law enforcement agencies that have requested ICE partnerships through the 287(g) program, which cross-designates local officers to enforce immigration law as authorized through section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. In the past two years, the 287(g) program has identified more than 22,000 illegal aliens for possible deportation. More than 60 municipal, county, and state agencies nationwide have requested 287(g) MOAs with ICE and more than 400 local and state officers have been trained under the program.

The 287g program is only one component under the ICE ACCESS umbrella of services and programs offered for assistance to local law enforcement officers. Other ICE ACCESS enforcement options include the creation of local task forces targeting specific challenges like gangs or document fraud, the presence of a Criminal Alien Program (CAP) team in local detention facilities to identify criminal aliens, or training to utilize the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC) which provides officers the ability to inquire about a person's immigration and criminal history. One especially successful joint initiative is Operation Community Shield, a national program aimed at dismantling violent transnational gangs that threaten the public.

"Operation Community Shield is an excellent example of the outstanding relationship the Miami-Dade Police Department has fostered with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies," said Miami-Dade Police Department Assistant Director James Loftus. "Law enforcement working together with each other, as well as with the community, can and will continue to make a difference."

ICE agents and officers will meet with agencies requesting ICE ACCESS assistance to assess local needs. Based upon these assessments, ICE and local agencies will determine which type of partnership is most beneficial and sustainable before entering into an official agreement.

Law enforcement agencies interested in reviewing the myriad of enforcement programs under the ICE ACCESS program are encouraged to call their local ICE office or visit www.ice.gov for more information.

-- ICE --

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.