

Open Letter

from Morton Grove Residents, Businesses & Organizations Supporting a Welcoming Community Ordinance

To the President and Trustees of the Village of Morton Grove, and candidates for election for Mayor and Trustee:

We, the undersigned residents, community organizations, and businesses who make up the Morton Grove community, write to urge the Village and its leadership to move quickly to adopt a “Welcoming Community” ordinance to ensure the security and equal dignity of all members of our community.

Morton Grove has long been a racially and ethnically diverse community and is home to numerous immigrants from a variety of nations. Many other immigrants contribute to our community by working here and patronizing our businesses. It is therefore in the interest of Morton Grove as a municipality to foster an environment where immigrants, whether they are naturalized citizens, green card or visa holders, or otherwise, feel safe and comfortable.

Furthermore, in a world of rapidly shifting and potentially unlawful policies regarding immigration and immigration law enforcement at the federal level, it is incumbent upon us as a community to do what we can within the boundaries of the law to ensure that our public facilities and services are a safe space for those who are rendered vulnerable by political agendas that ignore their valuable contributions to our community and their inherent worth as human beings.

Finally, a “Welcoming Community” ordinance will actually facilitate the administration of justice in the Village of Morton Grove. Individuals who fear that any interaction with police or municipal officials could end up in detention or deportation have been shown to avoid such contacts. Removing that concern will ensure that potential crimes are reported and other interactions with municipal authorities follow their natural flow without the shadow of immigration enforcement.

Therefore, we call upon the Village to follow the lead of other local cities and municipalities, including Skokie, Evanston, Oak Park and Chicago, and adopt a “Welcoming Community” ordinance that will ensure that our Village personnel will not investigate, inquire, or condition availability of services on an individual’s immigration status and that our Police will not expend their valuable resources investigating, detaining or apprehending individuals at the request of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel unless pursuant to a valid arrest warrant issued by a judge based on a finding of probable cause.

We believe that such an ordinance is both practical and reflective of the values of the Morton Grove community, and we urge you to take action without delay.

Signed,

Albert Abraham	Morton Grove resident
Evelyn Abraham	Morton Grove resident
Ashfaq Ahmed	Owner, Ruby Indo-Pak Grocery
Asrar Ahmed	Morton Grove Resident; Member, Muslim Community Center
Masood Ahmed	Owner, Marilyn’s Restaurant
Afsar Ali	Member, Muslim Community Center
Aleem Alimuddin	Morton Grove resident
Syed Alimuddin	Morton Grove resident
Ateeq Ansari	Member, Muslim Community Center
Kim Au	Morton Grove resident
Erin Balke	Morton Grove resident
Akram M. Bhatti	Member, Muslim Community Center
Lea Beaubien	Morton Grove resident

Daniel Biss	State Senator, 9 th District
Rev. Robert Burkhart	Morton Grove resident; United Methodist Pastor; Commissioner of the Morton Grove Community Relations Commission
Shirley Burkhart	Morton Grove resident
Elaine Cerny	Morton Grove resident
Janice Cha	Morton Grove resident; Commissioner of the Morton Grove Community Relations Commission
Kristen Chalabi	Morton Grove resident
Khaula Chaudry	Morton Grove resident
May Choy	Morton Grove resident
Jon Cole	Morton Grove resident
Mark Collins	Niles Township Board Trustee
Suzanne Connor	Morton Grove Public Library patron and program participant
Beverly Copeland	Morton Grove resident
Carrie Dahm	Morton Grove resident
Elinore Davis	Morton Grove resident
Isa Domin	Morton Grove resident; member, Muslim Community Center
Rev. Lolly Dominski	Co-Pastor, Morton Grove Community Church
Pat Donahoe	Morton Grove resident
Brandon Downing	Morton Grove Resident
Jenna Downing	Morton Grove Resident
Joy Dubner	Morton Grove resident
Mary Elsner	Morton Grove resident
Lorri Fishman	Morton Grove resident
Mark Flores	Morton Grove resident
Melanie Flores	Morton Grove resident
Kelly Foersterling	Morton Grove resident
Yvonne Franz	Morton Grove resident
Laura Frisch	Morton Grove resident
Kerry Galson	Morton Grove resident
Scott Galson	Morton Grove resident
Karen Garvin	Morton Grove resident
Brenda Glenn	Morton Grove resident
Jill Giovannetti	Morton Grove resident
Charlotte Goldberg	Morton Grove resident
Ruth Gomborg-Munoz, Ph.D	Morton Grove resident
Margaret Grau	Morton Grove resident
Stephanie Gray	Morton Grove resident
Edward Gut	Morton Grove resident
Michael Healy	Morton Grove resident
Bill Helgemo	Morton Grove resident
Ruth Helgemo	Morton Grove resident
Andrew Hoffman	Morton Grove resident
Hope Hornstein	Morton Grove resident
Rev. Bunny Hughes	Co-Pastor, Morton Grove Community Church
Rev. Elizabeth Jones	Pastor, St. Luke Christian Community Church
Mohammed Kaiseruddin	Past President, Muslim Community Center
Father Fawaz Kako	Pastor, Mart Miriam Chaldean Catholic Church
Andy Kang	Legal Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Chicago
Ilene Kaplan	Ilene Kaplan
Edward Kehm	Morton Grove resident
Richard Kim	Owner, Dempster Auto Service
Christopher Kintner	Morton Grove resident

Leah Kintner	Morton Grove resident
Linda Kluver	Morton Grove resident
Jonathan Lahn	Morton Grove resident; Director, Americans in Solidarity-Chicago
Paul Lahn	Morton Grove resident
Rosemary Lahn	Morton Grove resident
Anisa Laliwala	Morton Grove resident; member, Muslim Community Center
Tariq Laliwala	Morton Grove resident; member, Muslim Community Center
Karen Later	Morton Grove resident
Karen LeMaistre	Morton Grove resident
Mike LeMaistre	Morton Grove resident
David Linsell	Morton Grove resident
Adam Longman	Morton Grove resident
Elena Longman	Morton Grove resident
Judy Lucas	Morton Grove resident; member, Morton Grove Community Church
Ted Lucas	Morton Grove resident; member of Morton Grove Community Church
Jeannie Lugtu	Morton Grove resident
Petra Maton	Morton Grove resident
James Meierhoff	Morton Grove resident
Emir Memidzan	Morton Grove resident
Nijaza Memidzan	Morton Grove resident
Kim Moldofsky	Morton Grove resident
Father Thomas Mulavanal	Pastor, St. Mary's Syro-Malabar Knanaya Catholic Church
M. Sarwar Nasir	President, Muslim Community Center
Traci Offenfeld	Morton Grove resident; member, Americans in Solidarity-Chicago
Father Dennis O'Neill	Pastor, St. Martha Catholic Church
Bill Page	Morton Grove resident
Janice Page	Morton Grove resident
Christine Peters	Morton Grove resident
Father Carlos Pereira SFX	Associate Pastor, St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church
Father Mario Pereira SFX	Pastor, St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church
Grant Peretz	Morton Grove resident
Herman Peretz	Morton Grove resident
Irene Peretz	Morton Grove resident
Lauren Peretz	Morton Grove resident
Richard Peretz	Morton Grove resident
Karyn Polak	Morton Grove resident
Habeeb Quadri	Principal, Muslim Community Center Academy
Robert Raccuglia	Morton Grove resident
Naushina Rahman	Morton Grove resident; member, Muslim Community Center Interfaith and Outreach Committee
JoAnn M. Rapp, Ph.D	Morton Grove resident
Matthew Rodgers	Morton Grove resident
Richard Roh	Owner, CellulRxpess
Ronnie Rund	Morton Grove resident; member, Morton Grove Community Church
Akhter Sadiq	Morton Grove resident; member, Muslim Education Center
Marilyn Salimi	Morton Grove resident
Maria Santos	Morton Grove resident
Oli Santos	Morton Grove resident
Jan Schakowsky	United States Congresswoman, 9 th Congressional District
Andrew Segal	Morton Grove resident
Wajeeha Shuttari	Morton Grove Resident; Member, Muslim Community Center
Mike Simkins	Morton Grove resident; Owner, Simkins Funeral Home
Julie Smolyansky	CEO, Lifeway Foods

Ted Smukler	Senior Organizer, Open Communities
Tzvetelina Spasova	Morton Grove resident
Susan Strack	Morton Grove resident
Jim Szczepaniak	Morton Grove Resident; District 219 Community Relations Director
Catherine Terdich	Morton Grove resident
John Terdich	Morton Grove resident
Dan Vinson	Morton Grove resident
Kristin Krueger Vinson	Morton Grove resident
Dilnaz Waraich	member, Muslim Community Center Interfaith and Outreach Committee; member of Open Communities Board of Directors
Qaiser Waraich	member, Muslim Community Center
Brittany Wilson	Morton Grove resident
Kathleen Wilson	Morton Grove resident
Jason Wisnewski	Morton Grove resident
Lindley Wisnewski	Morton Grove resident
Leslie Wolfsen	Morton Grove resident
May Yoon	Co-owner, Style 4u, Morton Grove Retail Clothier
Ryan Yoon	Co-owner, Style 4u, Morton Grove Retail Clothier

Affiliations given for identification purposes only.