

City of Minneapolis

Request for Committee Action

RCA #: RCA-2026-00366

TO COMMITTEE(S):

#	Committee Name	Meeting Date	Submission Deadline
1	Public Health, Safety & Equity	Apr 15, 2026	Apr 2, 2026

FROM: City Council

LEAD STAFF: Ivonne Hernandez, Ward 9

PRESENTED BY: Council Member Chavez, Council Member Chowdhury, Council Member Chughtai, and Council Vice-President Osman

SUBJECT:

Renter Immigration Status Privacy and Anti-Retaliation Ordinance

ACTION ITEM(S)

#	File Type	Subcategory	Item Description	Public Hearing
1	Ordinance	Code Amendment	Passage of Ordinance amending Title 12, Chapter 244 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Housing: Maintenance Code, prohibiting inquiries into immigration status during the rental	Yes

#	File Type	Subcategory	Item Description	Public Hearing
			screening process and creating protections for tenants against retaliation based on immigration status.	

PREVIOUS ACTIONS

[2026-00177 - Immigration status of renters ordinance](#)

WARD / NEIGHBORHOOD / ADDRESS

#	Ward	Neighborhood	Address
1.	All Wards		

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS

The Renter Immigration Status Privacy and Anti-Retaliation Ordinance amends Section 244.2030 of the Minneapolis Housing Maintenance Code to establish protections for tenants and applicants in rental dwellings based on immigration and citizenship status.

Prohibitions. An owner, operator, landlord, or their agent may not ask about, require disclosure of, or share information about any tenant’s, prospective tenants, occupants, or prospective occupant’s immigration or citizenship status. Landlords are also prohibited from denying a rental application solely because the applicant provides an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) in lieu of a Social Security number which is a critical protection for mixed-status households and immigrants who use ITINs as their primary financial documentation.

Exceptions. These prohibitions do not apply when a landlord is legally obligated to determine immigration status under state or federal law. An owner, operator, landlord or their agent may also request documentation necessary to verify the financial qualifications or identity of a prospective tenant or occupant, if process is not used as a pretext to determine immigration status.

Anti-Retaliation. An owner, operator, landlord or their agent may not increase rent, decrease services, alter an existing rental agreement, file a legal action, contact federal or state law enforcement regarding a tenant's immigration status, or seek to recover possession. They may not threaten any such action in retaliation against a tenant or applicant who reports a code violation, seeks assistance from a community organization or the media, requests repairs, joins a tenant association, or exercises any other right or remedy provided by law.

Enforcement. Violations may result in administrative fines, adverse rental license action, and criminal prosecution. Any tenant aggrieved by a landlord's noncompliance may also seek redress directly in court. The city is not required to issue prior notice of violation before pursuing enforcement action under this section.

Findings:

- Whereas, the City strives to be a welcoming City to all; and
- Whereas, more than half of the residents of the City live in rental housing; and
- Whereas, all residents deserve to feel safe in their homes and have access to safe housing;
- Therefore, the City Council finds it necessary to adopt protections to ensure residents are not prevented from obtaining rental housing, or made to feel unsafe in their rental housing, due to immigration status.

Racial Equity Impact Analysis (REIA)

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

DOES THIS IMPACT ONE OF THE CITY'S GOAL AREAS?

Policy Goals

- HOUSING

Operational Goals

- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DESCRIBE THE IMPACT ON SELECTED GOAL AREAS.

This ordinance is meant to support housing security by preventing immigration status from being used against renters. It closes gaps in renter protections that expose renters to discrimination and displacement.

This ordinance reflects the concerns from immigrant residents in Minneapolis who have been impacted by Operation Metro Surge. Specifically, it adds anti-retaliation protections that could allow more residents to engage with the city to enforce this law and protect themselves.

WHO PARTICIPATED IN COMPLETING THIS ANALYSIS?

The Ward 9 Office

SECTION 2: DATA

LIST THE SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIES THAT WILL BE IMPACTED AND THE RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS OF CONSTITUENTS IN THOSE AREAS:

This ordinance is citywide and will impact on all rental properties. It will impact neighborhoods with a high proportion of immigrant, refugee, and BIPOC renters. This includes South Minneapolis, North Minneapolis, and the Phillips and Cedar Riverside neighborhoods which have a large Latino, East African, and Hmong residents.

WHAT DOES AVAILABLE DATA TELL YOU ABOUT HOW CONSTITUENTS FROM BIPOC COMMUNITIES CURRENTLY RELATE TO THE DESIRED OUTCOME COMPARED TO WHITE CONSTITUENTS?

BIPOC residents in Minneapolis rent at higher rates than white households. This is meant to address landlord retaliation and meant to keep neighbors safe.

WHAT DATA IS UNAVAILABLE OR MISSING? HOW CAN YOU OBTAIN ADDITIONAL DATA?

It would be good to better track when this happens.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

USING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (IAP2) [PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SPECTRUM](#), WHICH PARTICIPATION STRATEGY(S) WAS USED WHEN ENGAGING THOSE WHO WOULD BE MOST IMPACTED?

- CONSULT
- COLLABORATE

DESCRIBE THE ENGAGEMENT AND WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

This ordinance was developed after renters brought up concerns to Council Member Chavez at the height of Operation Metro Surge.

SECTION 4: ANALYSIS

HOW DOES THE OUTCOME FOR THIS ORDINANCE, AMENDMENT, OR POLICY HELP THE CITY ACHIEVE RACIAL EQUITY?

The Minneapolis 2040 Plan has goals that want to see all communities thrive regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, country of origin, religion, or zip code. Immigration based retaliation only sets us behind these goals.

SECTION 5: EVALUATION

HOW WILL IMPACTS BE MEASURED? WHAT ARE THE SUCCESS INDICATORS AND PROCESS BENCHMARKS?

The number of complaints under this ordinance and knowledge of the ordinance by impacted people.

HOW WILL THOSE WHO ARE IMPACTED BE INFORMED OF PROGRESS OVER TIME?

Multilingual engagement, outreach, and education should be conducted with this ordinance. Relevant committees should be updated.