March 17, 2017

THE ROLE OF GLENCOE PUBLIC SAFETY IN OUR WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

The Public Safety Department provides critical public safety services to everyone in the Glencoe community regardless of race, ethnicity, color, immigration or refugee status, religion or creed, gender or sexual orientation, age, mental or physical disability, veteran status or other social identities.

The Department’s Mission Statement “To provide the highest level of public safety services to everyone, in cooperation with the community in a partnership of equality and integrity, in a spirit of unity and mutual trust” was created many years ago and has guided our officers’ efforts in carrying out their duties to the community each and every day. The mission statement reflects our officers’ commitment to providing exemplary, fair and impartial public safety services to all those who require our assistance. In fact, no discriminatory factors of any kind are tolerated as Glencoe officers provide public safety services to our community. The recent effort of the Village Board in approving and endorsing the Welcoming and Inclusive Community Pledge reflects our department’s desire to protect all those who live in, work in, worship in or visit the Village of Glencoe.

In recent months across the United States, there seems to be growing confusion about the role of local police in the enforcement of federal immigration laws. Unfortunately, this confusion may result in hesitation to contact police to report crimes or to request assistance out of fear that local police officers might be working to support the efforts of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) - the federal agency responsible for enforcing federal immigration laws.

I want to reassure the community that Glencoe Public Safety Officers do not act as agents of ICE. Glencoe Public Safety Officers have no authority to enforce federal laws, including immigration laws.

With this in mind, it is important to understand our processes and how our officers might become aware of immigration law violations. When making initial contact with civilians on traffic stops or other calls for service, Glencoe officers do not inquire as to their immigration status. Immigration status has no bearing on Glencoe officers’ actions, nor the outcome of the interaction. However, we are required to verify the individuals’ identity through law enforcement databases. These databases do not provide immigration status information, but they may make officers aware of any federal arrest warrants related to immigration law violations. If no active warrants are discovered, our officers have no means to determine immigration status, nor would we take any additional measures to determine immigration status.
Glencoe Public Safety is committed to providing emergency services to everyone in our community - please do not be afraid to call for service. Glencoe Public Safety officers do not enforce immigration laws and our officers do not request immigration status information from the people we interact with on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Cary Lewandowski
Public Safety Director
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