



Office of Public Safety Commissioner

Steven M. Paré

February 10, 2011

David J. Venturella
Assistant Director
Secure Communities Program
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20536-5014

Dear Mr. Venturella:

I am writing pursuant to the directive contained in the September 7, 2010 communication between the Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, and Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), then-chairwoman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Citizenship, Refugees, Immigration, and Border Security.

The City of Providence, Rhode Island does not wish to participate in the Secure Communities program, but as there have been conflicting reports about this program, I would request additional information from your office on how to exercise the option of not participating. The City of Providence has historically enjoyed a population of great ethnic diversity and I am greatly concerned of the adverse impact that this program will have on our residents and visitors. The success of our city's community policing program has been based on the trust developed between law enforcement and the community – especially the immigrant community. The Secure Communities program will create fear and mistrust between the community and law enforcement – thus undermining our community policing model and risking the public safety of our capital city.

The City looks forward to working together to ensure that immigration violators with dangerous criminal backgrounds are apprehended. However, Secure Communities goes well beyond this public safety mission and will make policing and public safety efforts more difficult for the City of Providence.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Paré".

Steven M. Paré
Public Safety Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Peter F. Kilmartin, Rhode Island Attorney General
Harold Hurtt, Assistant Director