



## FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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### Joint Statement from the County Executive and County Council

August 5, 2019

As the elected representatives of Frederick County, the County Executive and County Council Members recognize and appreciate the passion shown by our residents on the issue of immigration and Frederick County's participation in the federal 287(g) program.

As elected officials from both political parties, we do not always agree with each other on issues that affect our community. But today we stand together to share where we agree and to advance two initiatives to ensure responsive and transparent government.

We all agree that only Congress can fully address the complex issue of immigration reform and that immigration is a federal issue. We all agree that we must have secure borders and at the same time must have fair and just processes that treat all human beings with dignity and respect.

Because Congress has been unable to pass comprehensive immigration reform, this issue has rolled down to the local level where it cannot be fully or effectively addressed.

As County officials, we have limited ability or authority to fully address the concerns citizens have raised about the Sheriff's participation in the 287(g) program. The Sheriff has entered this contract legally. The agreement requires no county appropriation of funds. The responsibility and authority for law enforcement and corrections in Frederick County rests solely with the elected Sheriff, a position created in the Constitution of the State of Maryland. As elected officials, we have no authority or oversight over other elected officials.

Since the 287(g) program and all programs with the Frederick County Sheriff's Office are the responsibility of our elected Sheriff, we encourage citizens to share their views on the program directly with the Sheriff.

Today, we demonstrate our commitment to good government and bipartisan leadership by jointly initiating the following actions:

First, we will initiate an independent, third-party financial audit of county funds related to the 287(g) program. We believe the answers to how much this program costs local taxpayers should be answered.

Second, we will hold a public meeting in the fall between the County Council and the Sheriff. The Sheriff has agreed to this meeting to allow him to explain the program, answer the Council's questions, and engage in an overall discussion of the program with Council Members. This will be a public information meeting and citizens will be able to observe the discussion. When a date for the meeting has been determined, it will be publicly advertised.

Frederick County is a welcoming and caring community. We are proud to call Frederick County home, and we work hard every day to ensure that all in our community enjoy the benefits of living in Frederick County.

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