



YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

City of Cambridge

Executive Department

CMA 2026-275
IN CITY COUNCIL
September 28, 2026

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Please see the attached memo conveying a response from Carolina Almonte, Executive Director, Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship, Megan Bayer, City Solicitor, and Pauline M. Wells, Acting Commissioner, Cambridge Police Department, to Awaiting Report #26-42 regarding display of informational and educational materials in all police department facilities.

Very truly yours,

Yi-An Huang
City Manager





Date: September 28, 2026

To: Yi-An Huang, City Manager
Fr: Carolina Almonte, Executive Director, Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship
Megan Bayer, City Solicitor
Pauline M. Wells, Acting Commissioner, Cambridge Police Department

Re: Response to [Awaiting Report #26-42](#) asking the City to develop and implement a policy requiring the posting of “Know Your Rights” informational and educational materials in all police department facilities.

This memorandum responds to Awaiting Report #26-42, asking the City to develop and implement a policy requiring the posting of “Know Your Rights” informational and educational materials in all police department facilities. The Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship (“CIRC”), Law Department, and Police Department (“CPD”) have developed proposed language and an implementation plan that will make the information available while avoiding confusion during the mandatory booking process.

Proposed Know Your Rights Materials

The proposed materials explain rights that an individual may have if stopped, questioned, detained, or interviewed by civil immigration authorities after leaving CPD. The language includes a disclaimer that the information is educational and does not constitute legal advice. It also explains that the listed rights may not apply in the same way when an individual is approached by other law enforcement authorities. The proposed English language text is included as Appendix A.

Placement and Distribution

CPD has identified the bail, processing, and interview room immediately outside the holding area as the most appropriate location for the materials. CPD will also post the materials at the two exit points used after release and may provide individuals with a copy after they have been cleared to leave. These locations give individuals multiple opportunities to review the information after processing and as they prepare to leave the facility.

Booking and Holding Areas

CPD does not recommend posting the materials inside the booking area or holding cells. Booking includes required searches, identity checks, and other procedures that individuals cannot decline. In that setting, language such as “you may” could be misunderstood to mean that an individual may refuse required booking steps or is free to leave. That misunderstanding could create confusion or delay for both the individual and officers. Posting the materials in the bail,

processing, and interview room and at the exits provides access to the information while separating guidance about possible future encounters with civil immigration authorities from the requirements of CPD custody.

Rights Advisement and Interpretation

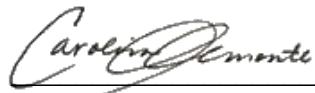
CPD advises people in custody of applicable rights, including the right to remain silent and the right to counsel. Interpretation services are also available throughout the booking process.

Design Translation and Implementation

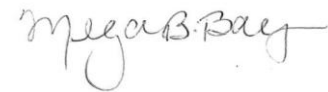
CIRC will coordinate the design and production of the poster. CIRC will work with the Language Justice Division on translated versions and with CPD and the Law Department on final review, placement, and distribution. Once the materials are finalized, CPD will post them in the locations described above and make copies available for distribution after release.

This approach provides individuals with multiple opportunities to review the information after processing while avoiding confusion about the mandatory procedures that apply during booking.

Very truly yours,



Carolina Almonte
Executive Director



Megan B. Bayer
City Solicitor



Pauline M. Wells
Acting Commissioner

Appendix A

Proposed Know Your Rights Language

This is for educational purposes only. This is not legal advice, and you should speak with a lawyer for any legal advice.

If you are stopped, questioned, detained, or interviewed by civil immigration authorities after you leave here, you may have certain rights. These same rights may not apply if you are approached by other law enforcement authorities.

- **YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.** You may say: “I am exercising my right to remain silent.”
- **YOU MAY ASK IF YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE.** If the answer is yes, you may leave.
- **YOU MAY REFUSE TO CONSENT TO A SEARCH** of yourself or your belongings. You may say: “I do not consent to a search.” But civil immigration authorities and law enforcement may be able to search your belongings even if you do not consent.
- **YOU MAY ASK TO SPEAK WITH A LAWYER** before answering questions or signing documents. But civil immigration authorities and law enforcement may not grant you time to speak with a lawyer.
- **YOU MAY ASK FOR AN INTERPRETER** if you do not understand what is being said.
- **YOU SHOULD NOT SIGN ANYTHING YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND.**