

Update on Know Your Rights Programs

Presented to The Public Safety Committee

1/27/2026

Know Your Program

- Know Your Rights (KYR) is OPA's community education program that provides year-round practical information to help residents understand their rights and interact safely with law enforcement, primarily Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local police.
- The workshops focus on key constitutional protections under the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments and are offered across all three City wards to ensure equitable access for residents ages 16 and older.



Know Your Program

- Community members can request a Know Your Rights workshop by submitting a request through the City website or by contacting OPA online, in person, or by phone.
- Requests are typically made by groups of ten or more interested participants. Once a request is received, OPA works with the host organization to confirm the topic, schedule the session, and provide language access as needed.



Know Your Topics

- **Civilian Oversight** – Law enforcement oversight systems, filing complaints/commendations, GR's oversight model
- **What to Do If Stopped by Police** – Constitutional rights and best practices for safe interactions
- **Safer Interactions with ICE** – Rights at home, in the car, and in public (most since new federal administration)
- **Intro to Criminal Justice** – What to do if arrested, ticketed, or searched

Know Your Events

Past Workshops

- 12 workshops conducted across all three wards since July 2025.
- Hosts: neighborhood associations, schools, churches, nonprofits. 80% of sessions focused on ICE interactions.
- Languages served: Spanish, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Pashto, Tigrinya, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Arabic, Amharic
- 2,300+ translated materials distributed last fiscal year.

Upcoming Workshops

- Upcoming workshops include a Know Your Rights session on ICE interactions hosted by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., in collaboration with Calvin University and Madison Square Church, with approximately 190 participants registered.
- Additional sessions are scheduled with Kent ISD Adult Education in Wyoming, serving an estimated 80–120 participants, and with Heather WIN, which is being rescheduled for February 2026.

Know Your Future

- Looking ahead, OPA is planning a Know Your Rights Symposium in mid-February.
- This Symposium will include a Know Your Rights presentation, speakers, and resource tables for the community.
- The goal is to strengthen relationships, share resources, and hear directly from community leaders about public safety priorities, including ICE interactions, violence prevention, and ways the City can help reduce harm.

Questions

Contact OPA at

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