

Highlights of the Anti-Bias Based Policing and Immigration Policy of the State College Police Department

1. **Is this a new policy?** No. It is a revision to the State College Police Department's existing policy on bias based policing. The revised policy adds specific information about immigration.
2. **What does the policy say?** The policy outlines standards as it relates to bias based policing and immigration. The policy prohibits all forms of bias based policing which is defined as any level of police contact or other law enforcement activity that is malicious or discriminatory towards another person or group based on bias or prejudice. The policy also encourages noncitizens to utilize police services and states that as a general practice, the [State College Police](#) do not ask or collect information about immigration status, nor does it report noncitizens to the federal government, except as necessary to an ongoing criminal investigation. The policy also outlines two types of immigration remedies available to victims and the specific role of law enforcement.
3. **Does the policy apply to police departments in the county?** No. This policy is limited to the State College Police Department.
4. **What is the goal of the revised policy?** The purpose of this policy is to issue guidance on providing services to all persons in our community, including noncitizens. The Department is committed to supporting victims of all crimes, including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. The State College Police Department wrote this policy because it did not have in place that addresses immigration specifically.
5. **Who drafted the revised policy specific to immigration?** This policy was drafted by the police chief in collaboration with the Borough manager, Borough solicitor and [Penn State Law's Center for Immigrants' Rights Clinic](#), which is led by Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia.
6. **Does this policy favor immigrants over U.S. citizens?** No. This policy acknowledges the unique circumstances faced by noncitizens and encourages them to come forward to report crimes and seek medical attention when necessary. The policy supports all group of people regardless of status.
7. **Does the policy prevent police from investigating crimes and other laws of the Commonwealth?** No. The policy opens with the position that nothing in the policy precludes the Department from investigating crimes. The SCPD has and will continue to investigate crimes and other activity that violates local or state laws. The SCPD all times enforce the laws of the Commonwealth and of the communities it serves and will endeavor to identify and reduce criminal activity, neighborhood deterioration, and continual nuisances.
8. **What is the benefit of this policy to the community?** When immigrants feel safe reporting crimes to the police without a fear that they will be turned over to DHS, this enhances public safety. This policy provides clear guidance to the community the police department's position on bias based policing and also its commitment to all members in our community including

noncitizens. Transparency, non-discrimination and inclusivity are important values to a community.