



TO: City Managers and Communications Teams

FROM: Momentum Advocacy

DATE: February 2, 2026 (12:11PM)

RE: Coalition Messaging Framework

This document outlines the coalition’s shared messaging framework, including three core messages and supporting talking points intended to guide external communications. The framework is designed to ensure consistency across cities while allowing local leaders flexibility to tailor messages to their audiences and context.

Safety over partisanship

Operation Metro Surge is making us less safe. We need immediate de-escalation and improved coordination, subject to constitutional rights and the rule of law. The operation pulls officers away from community safety needs and forces cities to absorb unsustainable costs. The cost is not just financial; trust is also eroding.

Economic stabilization

Operation Metro Surge is affecting Minnesota’s economy well beyond large city centers. It is creating and exacerbating economic uncertainty. From business closures to workforce instability and housing insecurity, the impacts weaken Minnesota’s economic engine.

Local control and constitutional rights

We stand for the rule of law and the constitutional rights of our residents. This is not a city-specific issue; it is a governance issue. Cities are held responsible for the wellbeing of our schools, hospitals, businesses, and neighborhoods, and must be able to govern locally in coordination with federal partners. We respect the role of federal immigration enforcement, but actions taken without considering local jurisdiction create risk for entire communities.

Talking Points About the Coalition: Why Is the Group Forming?

Intended Audience: Cities; State and Federal Policymakers

To restore order, trust, and a sense of normalcy

- The current impact from federal operations has exacerbated a climate of instability that is disrupting our schools, closing local businesses, and stretching our resources beyond our ability to manage.
- By advocating for immediate de-escalation, this coalition is fighting to restore a sense of normalcy—where families feel secure in their neighborhoods and local law enforcement can focus on our community’s specific needs, rather than managing the fallout of external chaos.
- True safety is built on a foundation of the rule of law, which fosters trust between residents and local institutions. Restoring that trust is essential to maintaining safe, functional communities.

To uphold constitutional rights and due process.

- As local leaders, we swore an oath to the Constitution and take seriously our responsibility to uphold the rule of law and constitutional protections.
- We respect the role of federal immigration enforcement and expect that enforcement to be carried out with respect for local conditions, responsibilities, and jurisdiction. We are concerned that current



enforcement approaches may risk undermining constitutional protections, including the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 14th Amendments.

- Clear coordination and accountability are necessary to ensure equal protection under the law, safeguard due process, and reduce legal and reputational risk for cities. We expect enforcement practices that respect due process, avoid discriminatory profiling, and align with constitutional standards for all people within Minnesota's borders.

Strength in numbers

- This is not limited to the Twin Cities. Communities across Minnesota are experiencing the impacts of instability and uncertainty.
- By working together, cities are demonstrating that these concerns transcend partisanship and geography. When cities raise concerns independently, they can be dismissed. A unified, nonpartisan coalition of mayors speaking with a shared purpose carries greater weight and credibility. A single city fighting federal overreach can be ignored, but a unified coalition of mayors speaking with one voice is harder to ignore.

What We Are Doing

Our coalition is asking federal and state elected officials for immediate de-escalation and acknowledgement of economic harms, including potential 2026 relief funds to cities. As more communities join, we will assess the damages done.

Statement on the Coalition

We are a nonpartisan coalition of [#] cities working together to restore stability, trust, and effective local governance. Operation Metro Surge has created instability that strains local public safety resources and disrupts local economies—affecting businesses, schools, and families well beyond the Twin Cities.

We stand for the rule of law and respect the role of federal immigration enforcement. We expect federal leadership to direct agencies in a way that recognizes local jurisdiction and responsibilities, while respecting the integrity of our cities as a whole. We are concerned that current enforcement approaches may risk undermining constitutional protections and place cities at legal and operational risk. We are calling for improved coordination grounded in the rule of law, due process, and respect for local governance.

There is strength in numbers. When cities raise concerns individually, they can be dismissed. A unified, nonpartisan coalition cannot. We are urging immediate de-escalation, clearer coordination, and a return to stability so cities can do their jobs and Minnesotans can feel secure in their communities.