



rRemarks Data for January 20, 2026 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section & Item: First Reading - ORD 2026-11073 - E. Ordinance: Concerning the Monitoring of Immigration Enforcement Activities

Commenter: I Briner

Comment: I want you, the council, to consider the safety of Downers Grove taxpayers. Here are some facts to consider.

ICE reported that Illinois authorities released roughly 1,768 people classified as “criminal illegal aliens” with active federal detainers between January and late 2025.

These detainers were tied to various crimes including homicide, assault, burglary, robbery, drug offenses, weapons offenses and sex crimes. These persons could have and should have been removed from our communities. Also about 4,015 more individuals are in custody in Illinois with active detainers linked to serious charges like homicide, assault, and sexual offenses.

If Illinois authorities co-operated with ICE and handed over illegals to ICE, they would not be going to Home Depot or residences and all would be safer.

Being soft on criminals is hard on victims. Victims of crime perpetrated by illegal aliens have heart wrenching stories too. It is not your job to be emotional. It is your job to protect the residents of Downers Grove. Let’s think about the safety of Downers Grove residents. They are who you serve or should serve.

Using DG police to surveil federal law enforcement is a waste of resources and time that should be spent serving the residents of DG. There is nothing DG police can do to obstruct federal law enforcement. Get your priorities straight and do not get sucked into a political boondoggle.

Agenda Section & Item: Manager's Report - INF 2026-11110 - B. Information: Discussion of the Proposed Public Art Program

Commenter: Kevin Larke

Comment: Our organization would like the village to reconsider its position of purchasing existing artworks for Phase 1 of the Public Art Program. Instead, we'd like the village to invest in building a statue that is uniquely Downers Grove and celebrates one of our most recognized residents, Randy Poffo. We look forward to encouraging the village at Tuesday's meeting.

Agenda Section & Item: Manager's Report - INF 2026-11110 - B. Information:
Discussion of the Proposed Public Art Program

Commenter: Heidi Steiner 4612 Washington Street

Comment: To the Honorable Members of the Downers Grove Village Council and Public Art Commission,

I am writing as a proud third-generation, lifelong resident of Downers Grove to respectfully propose the inclusion of a monument honoring Randy “Macho Man” Savage (born Randy Poffo) as part of the Village’s public art installations.

Downers Grove is a community that values both tradition and progress. Our public spaces tell a story of who we are, where we have been, and what we aspire to be. In that spirit, I believe it is fitting to recognize one of our most internationally recognized native sons—an individual whose career transcended entertainment and became a defining part of American pop culture.

Randy Savage was not only a professional wrestling icon, but also a charismatic performer, athlete, and ambassador of showmanship whose influence continues across generations. Known worldwide for his distinctive voice, unmatched intensity, and unforgettable persona, he helped shape the golden era of professional wrestling and remains a cultural touchstone decades later. His legacy is preserved in the WWE Hall of Fame and in the memories of millions who grew up watching him.

What is often less known, but deeply meaningful to our community, is that this global figure began his journey right here in Downers Grove.

A monument to Randy “Macho Man” Savage would serve several important purposes:

- **Cultural Recognition:** It honors a local resident whose impact reached far beyond our borders, reinforcing Downers Grove’s role in nurturing exceptional talent.
- **Community Pride:** It offers residents—especially young people—a tangible reminder that extraordinary success can grow from our own hometown.
- **Tourism and Engagement:** A thoughtfully designed installation would become a point of interest for visitors, fans, and families, contributing to foot traffic and local economic vitality.
- **Artistic Expression:** The larger-than-life nature of Savage’s persona lends itself beautifully to creative, dynamic public art that is both visually striking and emotionally resonant.

Public art is most powerful when it connects people to shared stories. Randy Savage’s story is one of dedication, creativity, and perseverance—values that align strongly with the character of Downers Grove itself.

I respectfully ask the Village to consider this proposal as you plan future installations. Including a monument to Randy “Macho Man” Savage would be a meaningful way to celebrate our community’s heritage while embracing a unique and beloved chapter of American cultural history.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to making Downers Grove a place where art, history, and community thrive.

With sincere respect,

Heidi Steiner

Agenda Section & Item: First Reading - ORD 2026-11073 - E. Ordinance: Concerning the Monitoring of Immigration Enforcement Activities

Commenter: Concerned DG resident

Comment: Allowing ICE to do their job would prevent stories like this one of Katie Abraham who was killed in January 2025 by a criminal illegal alien who was driving drunk. This video tells the heartbreaking story.

<https://youtu.be/ev56LsloEg0>

Agenda Section & Item: Manager's Report - INF 2026-11110 - B. Information: Discussion of the Proposed Public Art Program

Commenter: Tom Parr

Comment: I’m excited to see the council continuing to discuss the public art program tonight as part of the streetscapes program. But, as I looked over the board documents, an uneasy concern grew about how things have seemingly shifted in the approach and the process. In the past week, we’ve reviewed your updated public art criteria and now understand that up for discussion is a staff-driven two-phase approach to public art in this fiscal year.

While I certainly understand and appreciate the urgency that the Village has seemingly put behind the next steps of this new public art program and the enhanced streetscapes, I’d like to provide a different point of view.

First, as it relates to this new two-phase approach. The recommendation is to move forward with the purchase of “existing artworks” that can be installed in 2026. As it reads now - and perhaps this is a misunderstanding - but.. it appears that the Village Staff THEMSELVES intends to be the ones who are “picking” the art for all of Downers Grove. The documents read: “Staff will use VC feedback to select final pieces based on Council feedback and available budget.”

The justification? Speed. At least, that's the interpretation I'm left with after reading the latest documents. Staff wants to get "something" (anything?) up in the 3 locations in 2026.

That sure leaves the impression that the Village Council is delegating the selection of public art that will be in some of the highest profile locations in the Village to unelected village employees and then, seemingly hanging a 'mission accomplished' banner on public art as part bringing the Guiding DG Streetscapes Plan to life in 2026.

I'm certain I'm not alone in hoping that's not the case. I have to believe there's a better way.

The criteria you laid out provide the path forward. It is clear based on your added criteria (interaction with public, photos for social media) and your highlighted item ("Is Relative to DG, Unique to DG") that the public art program is squarely focused on place-making. And, that's a worthy goal.

Is there a chance that the Village Staff is going to go out and find something to buy that fits your criteria? Maybe. But, when the village is so careful and measured on other key aspects of projects around town, why are we rolling the dice on public art?

You took months of debate to decide on a garbage contract. Tons of public input. Tons of public meeting time. For garbage. FOR GARBAGE!

But, for large, installed public art at three of the highest-profile locations in town?

It seems like you're open to the public believing that you, our elected representatives are saying: "oh...just have the staff find some stuff".

Like other issues the village has taken on recently, I urge you to slow down and not make a short-sighted, staff-directed decision just simply to 'get something done'.

There's a once-in-a-generation opportunity that every other town in the suburbs of Chicago would DIE TO HAVE: A real placemaking piece of public art. A Randy Poffo statue.

Don't let this opportunity pass Downers Grove by. Honor one of our own with a Macho Monument. Not some off-the-shelf art that means nothing to anyone in town.

Thank you for your time and your service to the community.

Agenda Section & Item: First Reading - ORD 2026-11073 - E. Ordinance: Concerning the Monitoring of Immigration Enforcement Activities

Commenter: Jeff 5809 Webster St.

Comment: I am a resident of Downers Grove writing in support of the proposed ordinance concerning federal immigration enforcement activities.

This ordinance does something important and appropriate: it clearly defines the Village's role. It does not attempt to enforce or obstruct federal immigration law. Instead, it sets boundaries around the use of Village property, the use of Village data, and the

Village's responsibility to respond when residents raise legitimate safety or constitutional concerns.

Those are core local government functions. Deciding how municipal property is used, how local resources are allocated, and how residents are protected when they feel unsafe is not political overreach - it is basic governance.

Recent events nationally make clear why this clarity matters. When enforcement activity is opaque, masked, or poorly understood by the public, fear spreads quickly and trust erodes. Residents become less likely to call for help, cooperate with police, or report crimes. That undermines public safety regardless of anyone's views on immigration policy.

The ordinance reflects a careful, measured approach that many other municipalities have already taken. It emphasizes transparency, professionalism, and accountability while respecting the limits of local authority. That balance is exactly what residents should expect from their Village government.

I urge the Council to advance this ordinance and reaffirm that public safety in Downers Grove is built on trust, clarity, and restraint.

Agenda Section & Item: First Reading - ORD 2026-11073 - E. Ordinance: Concerning the Monitoring of Immigration Enforcement Activities

Commenter: Lisa Forst

Comment: Dear Village Council Members

As a concerned resident of Downers Grove, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed resolution to monitor federal immigration activities by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Border Patrol agents. This measure, which includes prohibiting federal agents from staging on village property, directing local police to respond to calls about immigration enforcement and document potential constitutional violations, and advocating for federal and state legislation on agent identification, represents a clear overreach of local authority. It risks entangling our community in federal matters, wasting taxpayer resources, and undermining public safety—all while potentially violating federal law through preemption.

I urge the council to reject this proposal outright, as it did in November 2025, and focus instead on local priorities that unite rather than divide our village.

First and foremost, immigration enforcement is exclusively a federal responsibility under the U.S. Constitution and the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). The Supremacy Clause ensures that federal law preempts conflicting state or local measures, particularly in areas where Congress has established a comprehensive framework like immigration.

Local governments lack the authority to regulate or interfere with federal operations, as confirmed by Supreme Court precedents such as **Arizona v. United States** (2012), which struck down state attempts to supplement federal immigration enforcement. By directing Downers Grove police to monitor and record federal agents' actions, this resolution could create an "obstacle" to federal objectives, inviting costly lawsuits from the Department of Homeland Security or the Justice Department—similar to recent federal challenges against sanctuary policies in states like Illinois and New York. Prohibiting staging on village property might seem minor, but it could be viewed as an unlawful restriction on federal authority, especially if it hinders agents' ability to perform lawful duties.

Beyond the legal issues, this proposal is a practical overreach that diverts limited local resources from core community needs.

Requiring officers to respond to "ICE sighting" calls via the non-emergency line and compile reports on potential violations would strain budgets and personnel, pulling them away from addressing local crimes, traffic safety, and emergency responses. In a village like Downers Grove, where resources are finite, this could erode community policing efforts.

For each of Leslie's "stories" about immigrant struggles, there are hundreds of stories where illegal immigrants murdered or robbed US Citizens, including the robbery on Forest Ave in Downers Grove.

Pursuing this path risks backlash, including potential loss of federal funding or legal sanctions. I encourage fellow residents to contact council members and attend meetings to voice opposition—our community deserves better than this divisive distraction.