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Hello, my name is Joseph Michalakes, and I've just finished up my first year at Harvard Law School.

Before that, I lived here for four years as a student at Harvard College. First, I'd like to thank the members of the Council for putting this order on the agenda. There's been an alarming anti-immigrant strain in state and local politics across the country in recent years, which has been aided and abetted by Secure Communities. Even in Massachusetts, the program has resulted in the detention of thousands of immigrants for minor offenses, even people with little to no criminal history; it has needlessly caused hundreds of families to be separated; and it has likely caused many crimes in immigrant communities to go unreported, out of fear that the local police force may inquire into the immigration status of victims or witnesses.

It's great to see that Cambridge has the chance to choose a different path, one that respects the contribution our immigrant neighbors make to our society and acknowledges that all city residents—no matter where they came from or how they got here—have the right to a positive, productive relationship with the local police force. I know that Cambridge has a long tradition of supporting immigrants and immigrant families, so it's only fitting that the city join over 100 localities across the country—including our neighbors in Somerville—in limiting the police department's cooperation with Secure Communities program. In addition, you have the chance to send a strong message to the Massachusetts legislature, which is considering a similar bill—the TRUST Act—that would impact the entire state. Please vote yes on Order # 1! Thank you for your time.