

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF INDIANA



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INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-2770

TODD ROKITA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 14, 2024

City of East Chicago Common Council
4525 Indianapolis Blvd.
East Chicago, Indiana 46312

Re: City of East Chicago Ordinance 17-0010

Dear Members of East Chicago Common Council:

On June 26, 2017, East Chicago's Common Council passed and adopted the "Welcoming City Ordinance." (Ordinance 17-0010, signed by Mayor Anthony Copeland, June 27, 2017). Today, following the passage of SEA 181, I write to (1) inquire whether Ordinance 17-0010 is still in effect; (2) demand the City of East Chicago to repeal it if it remains in effect; and (3) inform the Common Council of the legal consequences of failing to repeal the ordinance.

Please respond in writing to this letter by June 14, 2024, to let my office know whether the ordinance is currently in effect. If it has been repealed, please attach to your response the document giving effect to its repeal.

If Ordinance 17-0010 has not been repealed, this body must do so on or before July 1, 2024. I.C. §§ 5-2-18.2-3 and 4 prohibit a government body, including the East Chicago Common Council, from enacting an ordinance, rule or policy that would prohibit any local employee or official from communicating or cooperating with federal officials as to information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of an individual—or restricting the enforcement of our nation's immigration laws to less than the full extent permitted under federal law. The ordinance violates chapter 18.2. Therefore, respectfully, I demand that the Common Council repeal it.

After July 1, 2024, if I, as Indiana's Attorney General, determine that probable cause exists that the City of East Chicago has an ordinance, rule or policy in place that violates chapter 18.2, I will be statutorily required to bring an action to compel the City of East Chicago to comply with such chapter. See SEA 181 (effective July 1, 2024). Unless the ordinance has been repealed on or before July 1, 2024, probable

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cause will exist to bring an action against the City of East Chicago to compel its compliance with Indiana law—and I will do so.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Rokita". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Todd Rokita
Indiana Attorney General