Policy Title:	**SANCTUARY CITY POLICY**
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1. Policy Statement and Purpose

The City of New Westminster places high value on the principles of equality and equity and the rights of all community members, regardless of immigration status, to access City facilities, programs and services.

The intent of this policy is to support New Westminster community members with uncertain, precarious, undocumented, refugee or no immigration status to access City facilities, programs and services with the knowledge that the City of New Westminster will not ask for information about immigration status and will not provide information about immigration status to other institutions or orders of government.

2. Policy Application and Scope

This policy applies to facilities, programs and services directly provided by the City of New Westminster.

This policy will guide the actions of the City, including elected officials, City staff, City volunteers and contractors or consultants providing services on behalf of the City, and Fire and Rescue Services.

The New Westminster Police Department will be developing their own policy and/or guidelines in support of the objectives of this policy, which will go to their Police Board for approval.

3. Definitions

Immigration Status: The legal means through which an immigrant can remain in Canada. An immigrant is a non-citizen who has been granted the right to live in Canada permanently or temporarily by federal immigration authorities. This includes those who have come through various immigration pathways, such as a refugee, student, temporary worker, or visitor.

Uncertain Immigration Status: Refers to individuals who may have a pending status and/or unknown immigration status. This could include an individual who has received a negative decision on their application to stay in Canada and is actively appealing that decision.

Precarious Immigration Status: Refers to individuals who do not have permanent immigration status and who may be at risk of losing their temporary status or who have lost their legal immigration status through various means. Precarious status in Canada can include temporary workers, students and refugee applicants, as well as people who have overstayed their visa and permits, denied refugee claimants and undocumented entrants.

Undocumented: An individual who does not have formal or legal status to reside in Canada. Undocumented individuals may have entered Canada either voluntarily or through coercion without any legal documentation or visa, or may have entered Canada with a visa that has since expired or been revoked.

No Immigration Status: A person who has entered and/or remains in Canada without the permission of the federal government.

Refugee: A person forced to flee from persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, or membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

4. Policy Provisions

4.1 Access to City Facilities, Programs and Services

a) Access to City facilities, programs and services is not dependent on immigration status.

b) Welcome persons of all immigration statuses, including uncertain, precarious, undocumented, refugee or no immigration status, into the community through access to City facilities, programs and services.

c) Treat persons of all immigration statuses, including uncertain, precarious, undocumented, refugee or no immigration status, with respect and dignity when accessing City facilities, programs and services.

d) Improve access for persons of all immigration statuses, including uncertain, precarious, undocumented, refugee or no immigration status, to City facilities, programs and services, by not asking for information about immigration status and not providing information about immigration status to other institutions or orders of government.

e) City policies and procedures to be consistent with the Sanctuary City policy.

4.2 Identification, Privacy and Reporting

a) City staff will not request or gather personal information concerning immigration status in the course of providing City services or when community members are accessing City facilities and programs, and identification will be requested only when necessary.

b) A variety of forms of identification will be accepted.

c) Records of identification provided to City staff will be kept strictly confidential and used solely for the purposes for which intended.

d) City staff will not report immigration status to the New Westminster Police Department (NWPD), Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), or Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) unless required by law.

5. Implementation

5.1 Training and Education

a) Ongoing training for City staff on the Sanctuary City Policy, especially on the importance of confidentiality and the right of all persons to access City facilities, programs and services. Develop training materials in consultation with affected communities.

b) Integrate training on the Sanctuary City Policy with other City staff training programs whenever possible.

c) Align with future training delivered through the City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Framework.

5.2 Communication & Public Awareness

a) Develop a communication strategy to keep the community informed about the Sanctuary City Policy.

b) Facilitate awareness about the Sanctuary City Policy with public and community partners.

c) Create a list of the types of identification that will be accepted by the City.

5.3 Reporting & Evaluation

a) Establish and implement a complaint protocol and monitoring program.

b) Report to Council every two years.

6. Training Videos and Resources

Sanctuary City Policy Training Video

Sanctuary City – African Voices Video