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Police still not U.S. agents

Admittedly, the rhetoric at Monday's press conference at times was over the top, but the message was solid: Morristown Mayor Donald Cresitello's request to "deputize" police officers so they can enforce federal immigration laws is a bad one on many accounts.

As was pointed out by a number of pro-immigration groups, the idea could target anyone walking down the street who looked Hispanic. Would they be asked for their "papers," as in some sort of film clip from a movie about the old Soviet bloc? That may not be the intention of this plan, but it may be the result.

Nor do we see any practical reason to go after people who are here because their labors are needed. Opponents say they have gathered more than 3,600 petition signatures opposed to Cresitello's idea and that hundreds will attend tonight's council meeting in protest. The mayor should withdraw his proposal.
