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Monthly Newsletter

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Immigrant Leaders “presente” in the lead-up to the Mayoral elections:
Real Leaders Do not Hide

IF IMMIGRATION AGENTS SHOW UP AT YOUR JOB

In the private areas of your workplace, immigration agents cannot enter without a search warrant or an employer's permission. If immigration agents enter your workplace, you have the right not to answer any questions, including about your country of origin, how and when you came, what kind of visa or document you have, etc. Give your name and nothing else.

REMAIN CALM! If you decide to run and are caught, you may be giving the officer a reason to arrest you. Calmly ask the officer, "Why was I stopped?" Ask "Am I being detained?". If he/she responds, "NO," ask "Can I leave?". If he/she says "YES" assert your right to remain silent and give them your know-your-rights card. If you are arrested, don't resist, remain silent, and contact your attorney.

NEVER SHOW FALSE DOCUMENTS. Do not lie at and do not show any foreign document, such as a passport, consular identification or expired visa that ICE can use to identify your country of origin/citizenship.

DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING! Do not sign a document if you do not understand it or if you have not talked to an attorney about your legal options.

ORGANIZE! Participate in organizations such as El CENTRO to spread the word about our rights and to fight back against deportations. Make a plan with your co-workers at your workplace so you can act in solidarity to protect the rights of all.

DOCUMENT EVERYTHING! Use your cell phone to film any interaction with authorities, names of the officers or the badge number, the color of their uniform, the appearance of their vehicle and whether the officers are working with other departments.

USE "MOBILE JUSTICE-NEW MEXICO"! Download the mobile application of ACLU-NM to be able to record and keep track of any incidents with ICE or law enforcement.

El CENTRO attended the #RealTalk Mayoral Candidates' Forum to urge all candidates to reject the anti-immigrant platform that Mayor Berry adopted during his 2008 candidacy, which criminalized immigrants and included a promise to end "sanctuary" in Albuquerque. The city of Albuquerque will hold elections for mayor and city council in 2017. A general election for both the city council and the mayor will take place on October 3, 2017. A runoff election will be held on November 7, 2017, if no candidate receives at least 50% of the votes in the general election. In 2009, when Mayor Berry attempted to make good on his campaign promise, he expanded federal deportation programs such as Secure Communities-- the same program that Trump is now trying to coerce municipal governments into implementing. El CENTRO's message was clear at the forum: immigrants, low-wage workers, refugees and allies in Albuquerque will not stand by idly and allow a future mayor to force our communities into the shadows. Mayor Berry continues to stand behind his dangerous Trump-like practice of "welcoming Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to check on the immigration status of suspects" at the Prisoner Transport Center. These policies do not reflect our collective values, and El CENTRO will work to ensure that elected officials aren't complicit in the targeting and deportation of hardworking immigrant families and workers. El CENTRO's urges candidates to commit to not enter into another agreement with ICE to implement federal deportation programs, to strengthen current sanctuary city provisions, to support economic policies that benefit all low-wage workers and their families such as paid-sick-leave and defense of Albuquerque's

minimum wage, and to commit to passing policies which integrate immigrants into the mainstream.

Uriel Martinez, a member of our Defensores de Familia team, explains the importance of our immigrant communities getting involved in the election process "Immigrants are part of the fabric of our city, issues that impact our immigrant community should be addressed by the candidates seeking to lead our city. If we want our voice to be heard, we need to be involved in the mayoral race."

Immigrant friendly/sanctuary policies recognize the importance of immigrants' many contributions to the social, cultural, intellectual and economic fabric of our city. Immigrant friendly policies make Albuquerque a safer place for all. Statistically, through these policies, victims of domestic violence and other forms of violence are more likely to seek assistance; key witnesses of crime are more prone to come forward, and neighborhoods become safer and healthier. *

Moreover, immigrant-friendly policies recognize that immigrants are our neighbors, co-workers, classmates, small-business owners down the block, taxpayers, and our family members. Immigrant workers take care of our elderly and children, build and roof our adobe homes, pick the chile that we are so proud of, work in the dairies and oil fields, and work in the service industry. Real leaders don't hide—they stand up, step forward, and lead. Stay tuned for El CENTRO's platform on immigration.

If you would like to get involved in El CENTRO's non-partisan activities leading up to the municipal election, contact one of El CENTRO's organizers or call 505-246-1627.

*Wong, T.K. (2017, January 26). The Effects of Sanctuary Policies on Crime and the Economy. Retrieved May 31, 2017, from <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2017/01/26/297366/the-effects-of-sanctuary-policies-on-crime-and-the-economy/>



Mayor Berry is Trying to RIG the Election: Take Action to Protect Our Working Families

Did you know 107,000 workers in Albuquerque do NOT have paid sick leave? Mayor Berry is against any ordinance that helps our working families, and now he's using dirty tricks to get his way.

Mayor Berry is trying to rig the election to keep our voters from making an informed decision on the Healthy Workforce Act. The Healthy Workforce Act is an ordinance that would allow our Albuquerque hard workers to earn paid sick leave. He has ordered the City Attorney to push for a ballot printed in 6-point font, even though election guidelines say 8.5 font is the smallest acceptable size for a ballot. We, at El CENTRO, are combating Berry's dirty politics by arguing that the tiny font is not only illegible, but it also forces our voters to try to decipher it on a ballot. Even worse, the City Council and Mayor's Office have rejected our reasonable solution of placing a copy of the ordinance in every voting booth so that every voter has access to it - in a font that is legible and fair.

In 2016, El CENTRO, OLÉ and ally organizations worked tirelessly to collect 24,000 voter's signatures to place the Healthy Workforce Act on the ballot. Yet, once again our democracy and rights are being violated. That is why our City Council has the authority to stop the Mayor, but they need to hear from YOU. Call 1-866-986-9020 to be patched through to the city council and let them know - you want them to stand with voters and let the Mayor know that dirty tricks have no place in our democracy. Let's create a healthy workforce for Albuquerque!

Healthy Workforce Initiative, El CENTRO is recruiting new members for their employees' rights committee. Also, stay tuned to our website www.elcentronm.org and like us on Facebook for the latest updates.

OUR FAMILIES HAVE NEVER HAD JOBS WITH EARNED SICK DAYS.

THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T LET THE CITY RIG THE ELECTION AGAINST THE EARNED SICK DAYS QUESTION BY PRINTING IT SO SMALL YOU CAN'T EVEN READ IT.

ASK YOUR CITY COUNCILOR TO STAND FOR A FAIR ELECTION ON THE EARNED SICK DAYS.

1-866-986-9020



If you would like to get involved or learn more about workers' rights and the

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MANO A MANO: WORKERS' RIGHTS WORKSHOPS

WHEN: June 9th and 23rd, July 6th and 20th at 5:30 PM
WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Attend these free workshops if you think you've been a victim of wage theft and/or discrimination, and want to learn about your rights and options.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WHEN: June 20th from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Come and help us decide the next steps in our fight for workers' rights and Trump's hate agenda.

CIVIL RIGHTS WORKSHOPS

WHEN: Contact us to schedule and sign up for workshops
DESCRIPTION: Learn about your civil rights with with ICE/police, how to do a family emergency plan and join the movement to fight back!

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER

WHEN: Every Wednesday, 1 to 5 pm
WHERE: 714 4th St. SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Do you need help applying for DACA, citizenship or obtaining a background check?

NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER PHONE CONSULTATIONS

WHEN: Every Friday, 11 am to 1 pm
DESCRIPTION: Free legal consults! Call 505-247-1023

Congratulations Working Families! District Court Rules against Kelly's Brewpub in Wage Theft Case

Congratulations ABQ hard workers! We are happy to announce that on May 31st District Court Judge Alan Malott ruled against the motion to dismiss the wage theft case filed by employees of Kelly's Brewpub against the former owner of the restaurant.

this argument, writing that any challenge to how the 2012 election was conducted should have been made at the time of the election. Judge Malott's ruling is also significant for our Albuquerque workforce and our campaign to defend minimum wage because it suggests how the court may rule in a similar case, filed last month by a group of business organizations, such as the Association of Commerce and Industry, also asking the courts to invalidate the Albuquerque Minimum Wage Ordinance for the same reasons.

Highlighting our Members: Edgar Salinas from El CENTRO's Workers' Justice Committee

At El CENTRO we recognize that our power and support have always come and will continue to come from the base, from our members, immigrants, families, and workers. Every month we feature one of our members to show the inspiring resilience and the strength that our communities have to offer.

Edgar also makes a call to protect New Mexican working families, "Immigrants subsidize the US economy. Workers in New Mexico are under attack. Governor Susana Martínez has just vetoed a bill to raise the minimum wage. In 2012, we in Albuquerque approved increasing the minimum wage, including the minimum tipped wage. In 2016, we affirmed a request for paid sick days to be placed on the 2017 ballot. Now greedy groups want to revoke the minimum wage increase and eliminate the option to vote for sick pay days on the ballot.

Edgar Salinas is a carpenter, father of 3 children and activist with CENTRO with the Workers' Committee under the Mano a Mano program. Mano a Mano is a program that organizes workers to combat wage theft. It prioritizes the participation and leadership of affected workers in resolving cases of labor abuses and informs and directs pro-worker policies.

Edgar describes, "being an activist with El CENTRO has allowed me to contribute to my community, to feel and know that I am making a difference, helping others to defend their rights and ensure that we continue to fight for new rights. I work hard with the motivation of providing a bright future for my family. My dream is that my children have a better future, with many more opportunities. I also want my children to continue fighting for other families to achieve their own goals."



Check out our complete Know Your Rights with ICE and Law Enforcement Toolkit at our Website!

Infographic titled 'CONOZCA SUS DERECHOS ANTE LAS AUTORIDADES' with icons and text for various rights like 'MANTENGA SILENCIO', 'EN SU CASA', 'EN SU CARRO', etc.

If you would like to make a donation to El CENTRO, send a check to El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos: 714 4th St SW Albuquerque, NM 87102. Or donate through PayPal:

PayPal Donate Now button with logos for Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express.

