



714 4th St. SW ♦ Albuquerque, NM 87102 ♦ (505) 246-1627

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CONTACT: Rachel LaZar, (505) 246-1627 or rlazar_elcentro@yahoo.com

**Albuquerque Immigrants' Rights Organization
Denounces Trump's Attempt to Bully
ABQ into Targeting and Persecuting Immigrant Community**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Today, El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos, an Albuquerque-based immigrants' rights and workers' justice organization with over 4,000 members, denounced U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' attempt to coerce the City of Albuquerque into enforcing Trump's federal deportation programs by threatening to withhold federal crime fighting dollars. Session's threat to deny Public Safety Partnership monies was delivered in a letter to Albuquerque's Police Department's Chief Eden today.

El CENTRO issued the following statements:

"In the wake of the House Republicans advancing a budget proposal that includes billions of dollars to fund Trump's deportation machine, attempts to withdrawal protection from hundreds of thousands of young DREAMERS, and an uptick of immigration raids in the past months in communities across New Mexico, AG Sessions' is now trying to bully the City of Albuquerque into becoming complicit in the targeting and persecuting of immigrant families." In addition to bringing up serious constitutional concerns, this is completely counter to our collective values as a city and would have a chilling impact on the public safety of all Albuquerqueans. We have organized our communities for over a decade to pass policies in Albuquerque that are conducive to community policing and protecting victims of crime, that uphold civil rights, and that combat racial profiling and the criminalization of immigrant communities. We call on our elected officials and Chief Eden to stand up to these threats, to stand with our communities, and to stand behind Albuquerque's declaration of being an immigrant friendly. El CENTRO will continue to fight back in the streets, in City Hall, and in the courts if necessary."—Rachel LaZar, El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos

"We are ONE Albuquerque. We all want to live in city where our families can live, work, and thrive. Local elected officials and law enforcement must reject Trump and AG Sessions' blatant attempts to criminalize our communities, separate our families, and create a climate of fear and terror. The Albuquerque we all call home is better than that. Our families have experienced first-hand the impact that Mayor Berry's shameful, Trump-like policies had when he invited ICE into the prisoner transport center---leading to the separation of our families as a result of a simple traffic violation. We must move forward together and not allow Trump to tear down what we have worked so hard as a city to build up."--Marian Mendéz Cera, Community Organizer