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**Press Release**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Immigrant Communities, Victims' Advocates, Civil Liberty and Faith-based Organizations,  
and Economic Development Experts Support Resolution  
to Strengthen ABQ Status as an Immigrant Friendly City**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM—today Albuquerque's immigrant communities, victims advocates, civil liberty and faith-based organizations, workers' justice and economic development organizations joined together in support of the introduction of Resolution-18-7, co-sponsored by Albuquerque City Councilors Peña, to strengthen Albuquerque's status as an "immigrant friendly" City. Amongst other provisions, the resolution would ensure that the City is not using any resources to enforce federal immigration laws, safeguards personal and identifying information, limits ICE's access to nonpublic City facilities if they don't have a judicial warrant, and ensures that the City will not enforce any federal program requiring the registration of individuals on the basis of religious affiliation or ethnic or national origin.

The resolution is being introduced a year after the Trump administration took office and in the wake of a year in which his administration issued executive orders that aim to criminalize immigrants, further militarize the border, exponentially expand the Administration's deportation machine, expand the use of private prisons for immigrants, target "sanctuary cities", strip hundreds of thousands of immigrants of protections such as DACA and Temporary Protected Status (TPS), institute a travel ban that targets Muslim immigrants, dramatically reduce the number of refugees allowed to resettle in the United States, and violate constitutional rights in the process.

Marian Mendez Cera, a community organizer with El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos and a DACA beneficiary, lauds the co-sponsors of the resolution for doing their part to ensure that the City isn't complicit in putting Trump's deportation machine into motion, "Trump is trying to target and deport immigrant workers, such as my parents, who comprise New Mexico's workers that take care of our elderly and children, build and roof our homes, pick the chile that we are so proud of, work in the dairies and oil fields, and work in New Mexico's service and hospitality industries. We are New Mexicans and we love Albuquerque, the City we call home. Together, we can make Albuquerque a city in which our children wake up every morning knowing that their parents are going to return from a hard day's work. We can live in City in which our policies reflect our values of fairness, dignity, and family. We can live in a City which fights to protect our constitutional rights. We can live in a City which says, "ya basta" when immigrant, refugees, Muslims, and other targeted communities are under attack by the federal government"

Kay Bounkeau, the Executive Director of New Mexico Asian Family Services (NMAFC), recognized the importance of local governments in the protection of immigrant families and other targeted communities in the Trump era, “as we approach the one year anniversary of the Trump Administration's Muslim Ban, we have seen violent acts against groups such as women, undocumented youth and families, and immigrants and refugees all under the guise of policies that will keep America safer. At NMAFC, we have heard the fear and frustration from our Pan-Asian community through accounts of harassment and discrimination, intimidation and bullying by perpetrators and within legal systems, and racism within education. Time and again, we are reminded that we have a President that does not see the beauty and contribution of our communities and cultures. Because of this, it is crucial that we turn to our local governments to stand firmly with our families and enact policies that will keep our families safe, together, and given opportunities to thrive and succeed”.

Andrea Plaza, Executive Director of Encuentro, a local adult education and economic justice organization, points to the economic imperative of having policies that protect immigrant workers and small-business owners, “We are living in an era in which the Trump administration is targeting the very workers and small-business owners that play a vital role in the economic solvency of our City. It is not only immoral and based on racism and xenophobia, it is not good economic policy. Immigrant businesses have created jobs, generated millions of dollars in local tax revenue and revitalized many of our cities business corridors. Immigrant-owned businesses are essential to our public safety and their collaboration with local law enforcement supports community-policing efforts that keep our neighborhoods and business districts safe and accessible”.

Public safety and victims advocates are concerned that the current political climate and the increase in ICE activity, especially the courts, is having a chilling impact on victims of violent crime, “survivors of domestic violence are more afraid than ever,” state Claudia Medina, the executive director of Enlace Comunitario, a local domestic violence agency which focuses on providing services to the Spanish speaking community. She continues, “In my experience, a major factor of whether or not immigrant victims of domestic report the abuse or seek support services has been assurance that our local governmental institutions, including local law enforcement, won't enforce federal immigration laws. This resolution is a step in the right direction to help immigrant victims of crime feel safer in Albuquerque”.

“The threats posed by the Trump administration have left my daughters, like other children, with much uncertainty and fear. My daughters, as well as all the other children, deserve to have a normal childhood without the fear of being separated from their parents”, explained Jessica Rodriguez, a mother, student, small business owner, and member of El CENTRO. “We cannot normalize the deportation of our communities. We urge our elected officials not to allow Trump to play politics with our lives and our public safety and to pass the resolution strengthening Albuquerque as an immigrant-friendly city”.

[Click here to read the full text of the resolution.](#)

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*\*El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos is a grassroots, immigrants' rights and workers' justice organization based in Albuquerque, NM that works with Latino immigrant communities and allies to defend, strengthen, and advance the rights of our community.*