

LOCAL
LOCAL

Albuquerque City Council withdraws anti-immigrant resolution

"For those of us who work in immigrant communities, the contributions to the social, economic, and cultural fiber of New Mexico are clear."

Andrea Plaza

Executive director of the Plaza de Encuentro

Goria Williams
Mas New Mexico Writer

Albuquerque — In response to community outrage, members of the Albuquerque City Council unanimously withdrew the controversial anti-immigration legislation (Resolution 10-90) Monday evening that directly ties undocumented immigrants to crime in Albuquerque.

The resolution, which calls for the federal government to enforce immigration laws and strengthen border security, states that "illegal immigration negatively impacts the City of Albuquerque in many different ways," and "the citizens of the City of Albuquerque have been victimized by crime due to illegal immigration."

"Being called illegal immigrants already impacts our youth. Now we are being criminalized," said Vaneli Salinas, a recent graduate of West Mesa High School, to the crowd of over 100 people who gathered outside City Hall to protest.

While some held signs calling for real immigration reform that respects the contribution of immigrants, others held white wooden crosses or paper flowers.

"These flowers are to honor those who are not here due to fear. We who are legal need to stand up

for those who are not," said Rachel LaZar from El Centro de Igualdad y Derecho, who introduced the speakers.

"There is already a fear of reporting rape," said Andrea Serrano, community educator of the Rape Crisis Center of Central New Mexico. "And now they add the fear of deportation."

Other speakers included faith and civil rights leaders, as well as advocates for survivors of domestic violence.

Andrea Plaza, executive director of the Plaza de Encuentro, warned against "going down the slippery slope upon which Arizona has embarked," referring to the recent anti-immigrant legislation that has passed in the neighboring state.

"For those of us who work in immigrant communities, the contributions to the social, economic, and cultural fiber of New Mexico are clear," she said.

Plaza cited the 2004 New Mexico fiscal policy project, which calculated undocumented immigrants in New Mexico contributed \$64.7 million in sales, income, and property taxes to the state economy.

"This very discussion is about human rights," Councilor Rey Garduño told the crowd before the City Council meeting began.

"As a city, we are facing a clear choice about what side of history we will be on. Will we allow intolerance, dema-



Hundreds of people gathered Monday, June 7, to protest resolution R-10-90 and the growing anti-immigrant rhetoric across the nation, on the corner of Marquette Avenue and Fifth Street.

PHOTO GLORIA WILLIAMS/MÁS NEW MEXICO

goguery, and xenophobia to define Albuquerque; or will we take a stand that celebrates the contributions we all make to our community and transforms diversity into shared purpose and prosperity," he said.

LaZar, who has worked for immigrant rights and immigration reform for 12 years, noted the rise in anti-immigrant statements

among politicians.

"We have a proud history of passing legislation that is conducive to immigration and we have never seen this type of rhetoric even being attempted to be used in political arenas," said LaZar.

"This is the voice of the community. We expect better from our policy makers and we expect better from our candidates

and that they will stand up for what's right and won't use this rhetoric for short-term political gain, really on the backs of immigrants in our community," she said.

The demonstrators walked quietly into the city council chambers and waited until the City Council members officially withdrew the resolution.

Spokesperson Pastor

Daniel Erdman asked all who had come in support of immigrants to stand up.

"Isn't that beautiful?" he said. "We come with one message: The Albuquerque community cannot be divided over issues related to immigration and immigrants must not be blamed for the difficulties we face as a city and as a society. We are one, Albuquerque."

RESOLUCIÓN 10-90: 'Esta discusión propia es acerca de derechos humanos'

Viene de la página 1

nían carteles que piden una verdadera reforma migratoria que respete la contribución de los migrantes, otros sostenían cruces de madera blancas o flores de papel.

"Estas flores son para honrar a aquellos que no están aquí por miedo. Nosotros que somos legales tenemos que defender a aquellos que no lo son," dijo Rachel LaZar del Centro de Igualdad y Derecho, que presentó a los oradores.

"Ya existe un miedo a denunciar una violación", dijo Andrea Serrano, educadora comunitaria del Centro de Crisis por Violación del Centro de Nuevo México. "Y ahora se agrega el temor a la deportación".

Otros oradores incluyeron a líderes de derechos civiles y religiosos, así como defensores de los sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica.

Andrea Plaza, directora ejecutiva de la Plaza de Encuentro, advirtió en

contra de "ir por la pendiente resbaladiza en la que Arizona se ha embarcado", refiriéndose a la reciente legislación SB 1070 que se ha aprobado en el estado vecino.

"Para aquellos de nosotros que trabajamos en las comunidades inmigrantes, las contribuciones a los aspectos sociales, económicos, y fibra cultural de Nuevo México son claras", dijo.

Plaza citó el proyecto de política fiscal de Nuevo México del 2004, que calculó que los inmigrantes indocumentados en Nuevo México contribuyeron 64,7 millones dólares en ventas, ingresos, e impuestos de propiedad a la economía del estado.

"Esta discusión propia es acerca de derechos humanos", dijo el concejal Rey Garduño a la multitud antes de que la reunión del Consejo Municipal comenzara.

"Como ciudad, nos

encontramos ante una opción clara acerca de qué lado de la historia estamos. ¿Permitiremos la intolerancia, la demagogia y la xenofobia para definir Albuquerque, o vamos a tomar una posición que celebra las contribuciones que hacen a nuestra comunidad y transforma la diversidad en un propósito compartido y de prosperidad?", dijo.

Lazar, quien ha trabajado por los derechos de migrantes y la reforma migratoria durante 12 años, señaló el aumento de las declaraciones anti-inmigrantes entre los políticos.

"Tenemos una orgullosa historia de aprobación de leyes que favorezcan a la migración y nunca hemos visto este tipo de retórica, incluso intentando utilizarla en los ámbitos políticos", dijo Lazar.

"Esta es la voz de la comunidad. Esperamos mas de nuestra clase política y esperamos mas de

nuestros candidatos y que llegarán a defender lo que es correcto y no van a usar esta retórica para obtener beneficios políticos a corto plazo, en realidad sobre las espaldas de los inmigrantes en nuestra comunidad", dijo.

Los manifestantes caminaron en silencio hacia la cámara del consejo de la ciudad y esperaron hasta que los miembros del Ayuntamiento retiraron oficialmente la resolución.

El portavoz del Pastor Daniel Erdman pidió a todos los que habían venido en apoyo de los inmigrantes a pie.

"¿No es hermoso?", Dijo. "Venimos con un mensaje: La comunidad de Albuquerque no puede ser dividida por cuestiones relacionadas con la migración y los inmigrantes no deben ser culpados por las dificultades que enfrentamos como ciudad y como sociedad. Somos uno, Albuquerque".



**Push'em back,
Push'em back,
waaaay back.**

Get discounts
up to 40%.

Call, click, or visit on your car insurance and find out how you can save money by switching to the #1 team. **Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.**

CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7.



State Farm