



Monthly Newsletter

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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La Lucha for Sanctuary in Albuquerque Continues!

Congratulations Albuquerque families! With a vote of 6: 3 (Councilors Benton, Borrego, Davis, Gibson, Peña, Sanchez voting for and Harris, Jones, and Winter voting against), the Albuquerque City Council, passed Resolution 18-7, strengthening the status of Albuquerque as an immigrant friendly city. The resolution was co-sponsored by Albuquerque City Councilors Klarissa Peña and Pat Davis and it and reaffirms that Albuquerque will not assist in the enforcement of federal immigration laws. Albuquerque passed its first immigrant-friendly resolution in 2000. Over 75 immigrant and faith-based organizations, educators, civil liberties and legal advocacy, domestic violence, and sexual assault service providers, and business leaders endorsed the resolution highlighting the vital role immigrant and refugee families play in all sectors of Albuquerque.

Amongst other provisions, the resolution, if signed by Mayor Keller, will ensure that the City is not using any resources to enforce federal immigration laws, reversing practices that led to a dark period under the previous administration, Mayor Berry. In addition, the resolution will safeguard personal and identifying information, limit ICE's access to nonpublic City facilities if they don't have a judicial warrant, and ensure 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.

We recognize that our power has always come directly from our members and our communities. We are grateful for the tireless participation of some of our most active members: Jessica Rodriguez, Edgar Salinas, Manuel Sanz, Alicia Saenz, Norma Dorado, and Berta Campos among many others. Throughout our lucha for sanctuary in Albuquerque in the past months, we have also recognized the energetic participation of new leaders that have stepped up to lead our efforts. For example, Luz Elva has attended all our recent organizing events regarding resolution 18-7 because she has had enough of the injustices against our communities, "I recently became more involved with El CENTRO because I am tired of all the injustices our communities experience daily. This win with our sanctuary resolution will have a significant impact on our families because it will give them more protections."

Many of our most active new members in the fight for sanctuary are parents Encuentro students, and workers who work hard day to day to bring a better future for their children. Olga Santana is a working immigrant mother and a student with Encuentro and she tells us why she became involved in fighting

for sanctuary for our communities, "as a mother I am invested in making sure that my children grow up in a more just society. Only by working together and helping each other we will be able to end with racism and discrimination in this country."

The night of the City Council vote, Elizabeth Guevara, staff member of Encuentro and member of El CENTRO, and her daughter Jane Guevara testified. Elizabeth was excited to see that hundreds of members of our communities and allies turned out in support "We were able to pass this resolution thanks to the hundreds of people that showed up that night and thanks to the constant efforts our communities have been putting into this resolution." Her daughter, Jane, works as a social service navigator for Pathways New Mexico and she is excited that this resolution will bring support to her own family and also her clients, "I am excited to see that this resolution will bring more protections to my family and my clients."

We were also honored to have the support of local immigrant business owners who contribute so much to the economic and sustainability of our neighborhoods. Carmen Manriquez, a grandmother, local business owner of Carnicería Especial and a member of El CENTRO explains why she testified at the City Council meeting, "my husband and I are constantly working with organizations such as El CENTRO to assure that our communities have the tools to strive in our City and to continue providing economically and socially to our state."

Many of our members express the sense of hope that this resolution will bring to their households as well as the spirit of pride that this win made them feel. Raul Cobos elaborates, "this resolution gives me hope that our City is actually welcoming our communities and I look forward to seeing how we can have a successful collaboration with our local elected officials."

We recognize that R-18-7 won't prevent all ICE activity in Albuquerque, but is a step on the right direction. Being an immigrant-friendly City isn't just a policy, it is commitment to our communities. It means that we will hold our elected officials accountable do their part to ensure that the City isn't complicit in enforcing federal deportation programs.

Call Mayor Keller at (505) 768-3000 and leave a message for him urging him to sign the resolution and strengthening Albuquerque's status as an immigrant-friendly city and then stay tuned for our next steps in the fight to protect our families. a lucha sigue! To get involved in the fight against Trump's anti-immigrant agenda, contact El CENTRO: 505-246-1627.



Luchador del Mes: Luis Martinez, activist, immigrant father, business leader and member of El CENTRO

Every month we highlight the work and the story of one of our active members. This month we highlight Luis Martinez. He is a proud father of five, a small local business owner of Nena's Foods, an active business leader and an activist with El CENTRO. Throughout the past months, Luis Angel Serrano has been a key participant in our lucha through his participation organizing Know Your Rights workshops for workers and employers, participating in our press conferences and City Council meetings to pass resolution 18-7 to strengthen Albuquerque's status as an immigrant-friendly city. In addition, he has his wife Alma frequently donate food for some our events such as our 2017 and 2018 Leadership Summits and our Posadas.

Luis first got involved with El CENTRO in the early 2000s through this participation in Enlace Comunitario. This led to him and Alma becoming El CENTRO members and investing in organizing to protect the rights of our immigrant families. In the recent months, after Luis heard that ICE was conducting I-9 audits around New Mexico, he decided to become an active leader among a network of local immigrant-owned businesses to ensure that his employers have access to the latest toolkits and Know Your Rights information to protect their families. Luis explains that, "before becoming a business owner, I worked

as a restaurant chef for decades. Thanks to this experience I empathize with my own workers. My workers are people who deserve protection. Because of my desire to protect my employees, I participated in Know Your Rights workshops for employers and employees that El CENTRO and the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center gave."

Luis encourages local business owners to become involved with El CENTRO, "it is our responsibility as business owners to ensure that we have the tools to protect our workers and to ensure that our workers are able to protect their families. I urge other small business owners to get informed: we don't have to let ICE intimidate us, let them into private spaces at our worksite or allow them to interrogate our employees."

We, at El CENTRO, recognize that our strength has always come and will continue to come directly from our members. Thank you! El CENTRO will continue to host I-9 Audit and ICE Enforcement workshops. If you are a small local business owner and would like to join our network of businesses working to protect our communities and for a toolkit regarding I-9 audits or to request a workshop, go to www.elcentronm.org or contact El CENTRO at (505) 246-1627.



Membership Meeting: Sanctuary for our families
Our members discussed our next steps in our lucha for santuario and for stronger protections for our workers.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY DAY CELEBRATION: WE ARE ALL NM

WHEN: Tuesday May 1st, 5:30 to 8:30 pm
 WHERE: 801 Barelmas Rd SW, 87102
 DESCRIPTION: International Workers' Day festival and celebration: Celebrating the contributions of our immigrant communities. Our theme is "We Are All New Mexico"

WORKERS' RIGHTS ORIENTATIONS

WHEN: May 14 & 28, & June 11 & 25, 5:30 to 7 pm
 WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
 DESCRIPTION: Come to our orientations if you think you've been a victim of wage theft and/or discrimination, and want to learn about your rights and options. Call in advance to reserve your spot, 505-247-1023

CIVIL RIGHTS WORKSHOPS

WHEN: Contact us to schedule and sign up
 DESCRIPTION: Learn about your civil rights with ICE/police, and how to make a family emergency plan and how to join the movement to fight back! Contact us at 505-246-1627 or sign up on line at www.elcentronm.org

LEGAL CONSULTATIONS - THE NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER

WHEN: Every Wednesday, 1 to 5 pm
 WHERE: 714 4th St. SW 87102
 DESCRIPTION: Do you need help with any immigration related issues or obtaining a background check? Come on Wednesdays to sign up for a free consultation with an immigration attorney.

NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER PHONE CONSULTATIONS

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

For more information about events and to check out our complete Know Your Rights with ICE and Law Enforcement Toolkit at our Website!



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WITH ICE

- HAVE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN**
If you decide that it makes sense for your family to have a plan in case of a detention or deportation, please call 1-800-368-5868 for more information. If you are a victim of human trafficking, please call 1-800-368-5868 for more information.
- REMAIN CALM AND SILENT!**
If you are being questioned by ICE, remain calm and silent. Do not sign anything, do not answer questions, and do not provide any information. If you are being questioned by ICE, remain calm and silent. Do not sign anything, do not answer questions, and do not provide any information.
- DON'T OPEN THE DOOR!**
ICE agents are not allowed to enter your home without a warrant. If you are being questioned by ICE, do not open the door. If you are being questioned by ICE, do not open the door.
- DOCUMENT EVERYTHING!**
Document everything! Take photos, videos, and recordings of ICE agents, their vehicles, and their actions. Document everything! Take photos, videos, and recordings of ICE agents, their vehicles, and their actions.
- NEVER SHOW FALSE DOCUMENTS!**
Never show false documents! ICE agents are trained to detect false documents. Never show false documents! ICE agents are trained to detect false documents.
- AT WORK**
ICE agents are not allowed to enter your workplace without a warrant. If you are being questioned by ICE, do not let them enter your workplace. If you are being questioned by ICE, do not let them enter your workplace.
- DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING!**
Do not sign anything! ICE agents are trained to pressure you into signing documents. Do not sign anything! ICE agents are trained to pressure you into signing documents.
- ORGANIZE!**
Organize! ICE agents are not allowed to enter your community without a warrant. Organize! ICE agents are not allowed to enter your community without a warrant.

EL CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos | @ELCENTRO_NM | #ELCENTRO | 505.246.1627

Immigrant Workers Stand Together and Honor Cesar Chavez's Legacy of Justice

On Saturday, April 7th, El CENTRO joined the César Chávez March organized by the Recuerda César Chávez committee, to honor the legacy of justice in solidarity with communities of colors, and to send the message that immigrant communities are here to stay. El CENTRO members participated with our float themed "We are all Albuquerque" to highlight the countless contributions immigrant workers provide to New Mexico.



Community Festival: "We Are All New Mexico"

Lifting Up Low-Wage Workers' and our Communities' Contributions

On May 1st, International Workers' Day, we will come together to celebrate and recognize the countless contributions that immigrant families and our diverse communities make to the cultural, economic and social fabric of Albuquerque. Participate with El CENTRO, along with dozens of organizations around the city for a day of solidarity and celebration and come to together as a community to promote immigrants'/refugees' rights and workers' justice. We will also celebrate one of our most recent victories: passing resolution 18-7 to strengthen the status of Albuquerque as an immigrant-friendly city.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 1st, 5:30 to 8:30 PM

WHERE: Barelmas Community Center | 801 Barelmas Rd SW, 87102

Come and enjoy activities for the whole family:

- Opening Ceremony by Circulo Solar Ollin Xochipilli Danza Azteca and Grupo de Danza Mayahuel Kalpulli Izcalli
 - Traditional Healing Services provide by Grupo de Danza Mayahuel Kalpulli Izcalli - Healing Circle ("limpias", reiki, healing circles and more)
 - Live Music: DJ Tequila, Mariachi San Jose y Tamborazo Loko
 - Entertainment: ballet folklórico Desoluna, professional clowning Payasita Lollipop and activities for children
 - Volleyball Tournament
 - Food vendors: Tacos' Sanchez, Cooperativa Justa, and La Carreta Hot Dogs
- And much more. Come and bring your family for an evening of celebration!

May Day - International Workers' Day



WE ARE ALL NUEVO MEXICO

Congratulations ABQ for our victory as sanctuary city.

When: Tuesday, May 1st, 2018 | 5:30PM-8:30PM

Where : Barelas Park | 801 Barelas Rd SW, 87102

What: Celebrating the Contributions of Workers and Our Communities

• Free Family Event • Picnic Style • Volleyball and Soccer Tournaments • Live Music • Ballet Folklorico • Danzantes • Dancing • Entertainment • Activities for Children • Food Trucks • Traditional Medicine Treatments ("cleansings", massages, reiki, healing circles) • Professional Clown Payasita Lollipop • and more •

Cosponsors and supporters :

ACCESS, Agricultura Network, Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice, Albuquerque Teachers Federation, Barelas Community Center, Circulo Solar Ollin Xochipilli Danza Azteca, CVNMEF, Juntos: Our Air, Our Water, Emmanuel Renteria, ENCUESTRO, Grupo de Danza Azteca Mayahuel, Kalpulli Izkalli, Topahkal health and Healing Center, Grupo Folklorico Desoluna, Mariachi San Jose, NMDT, OLÉ, Partnership for Community Action, Payasita Lolipop, People's Congress of Resistance, SFNM, Solare Collegiate Charter School, SWOP, Tamborazo Loko, Taqueria MX, T4B