



Tuesday April 24th, 2018,

Press Statement

Contact: Maria Jose Ramos (505) 916-1827

Rosalinda Dorado (505) 307-6213

Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller Signs Immigrant Friendly Resolution

ALBUQUERQUE, NM. On April 16th, the Albuquerque City Council approved Resolution 18-7, strengthening Albuquerque's status as an immigrant-friendly City on a 6:3 vote. Hundreds of Albuquerque residents turned out in support. The resolution was co-sponsored by Albuquerque City Councilors Klarissa Peña and Pat Davis. 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.

Just days after the City Council passed the resolution, President Trump's attempt to crack down on "sanctuary cities" was impeded as a federal appeals court in Chicago upheld a nationwide injunction prohibiting the administration's effort to strong-arm cities into cooperating with immigration enforcement by denying federal funding. All three judges in the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling were Republican appointees.

In response to Mayor's Keller's signing of R-18-7, strengthening Albuquerque's status as an immigrant-friendly city, Marian Méndez-Cera, El CENTRO's workers' justice and civil rights community organizer issued the following statement:

"In order for Trump to carry out his terrifying vision of mass deportation, his administration is trying to strong-arm local governments into enforcing federal deportation programs. This resolution will ensure that the City of Albuquerque isn't complicit in implementing Trump's plan to target, detain, and deport Albuquerque families. It is also conducive to public safety and safeguarding civil rights and builds on Albuquerque's legacy of passing policies conducive to integrating immigrants into the economic, cultural, and civic fiber of the City. The resolution recognizes that immigrants are our neighbors, co-workers, classmates, small-business owners down the block, tax-payers, and our family members."

Because of the leadership and tireless organizing of our communities, New Mexico is serving as a model in the nation in the fight against Trump's deportation machine."

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. By Mayor Keller inviting El CENTRO members and allies to the signing of the resolution, he was sending a strong message that our communities belong in City Hall. We look forward to continuing to work with our City Council and Mayor Keller to ensure we live in a city in which all our communities are safe from persecution and can thrive."

XXX

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. **Connect with the El CENTRO on Twitter: [@ELCENTRO_NM](#) and on Facebook: [@ElCentrodIgualdadyDerechos](#)*