



# Monthly Newsletter

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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## Albuquerque Passes Resolution 18-7 to Strengthen its Status as a Sanctuary City

On April 24th, Mayor Tim Keller officially signed resolution 18-7 to strengthen Albuquerque as an immigrant-friendly city. Mayor Keller's administration coordinated a press conference with El CENTRO at m Mayor Keller's office for the signing ceremony. Having our members and representative from other immigrant-based organizations at the Mayor's office sent a strong message and a marked difference from the Berry administration, that our communities belong in City Hall. We look forward to continuing to work with local elected officials and decision makers to provide better and stronger protections to our families.

Mayor Tim Keller signed the resolution days after the Albuquerque City Council approved R-18-7 on a 6:3 vote on April 16th. The resolution was co-sponsored by Albuquerque City Councilors Klarissa Peña and Pat Davis.

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 that aim to integrate 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.

Marian Méndez-Cera, El CENTRO's workers' justice and civil rights community organizer comments, 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 it is a step in the right direction."

We are grateful for the enthusiastic participation of some of our most active members who were also present at the sign-in ceremony. Mirna Lazcano attended the signing ceremony along with her youngest daughter Ashely she talked about how this resolution will directly benefit her family, "I am proud that my children are growing up in a city where the Mayor and the City Council stand with our families. This resolution will bring stronger protections for our families. As a mother, this resolution brings me hope for the future of my children."

Hilaria Martinez spoke about the sense of victory that the resolution brings to our communities, "We are extremely proud to know that after years of fighting for our rights in Albuquerque, now we can tell our children that our communities are making history in our beloved city."

Manuel Sanz is part of El CENTRO's Workers Committee, and he talked about the honor of attending the ceremony along with members and allies, "I was proud that the Mayor recognized the leadership that our communities have taken in passing this resolution. I am excited to continue working with our elected officials shortly."

Norma Dorado, a long-time active member of El CENTRO, reflects on the role this resolution will have for future collaboration between of members and elected officials, "It was my first time being at the Mayor's office. That day, we sent the message that our communities are welcome in the offices of our elected officials. Being a sanctuary city means that our representatives work hand in hand with our communities and we are looking forward to continuing working with our Mayor and our City Council."

Mayor Tim Keller supported our communities by signing resolution 18-7 on April 24th. This was a historic day for our working families in Albuquerque. To get involved in the fight against Trump's anti-immigrant agenda, contact El CENTRO: 505-246-1627. We will continue to organize our communities and hold elected officials accountable for working with our communities to ensure that our voices are heard. La lucha sigue!



**May Day Community Celebration: Recognizing the Contributions of our Workers and Communities**

Hundreds of members came out for our May Day community celebration, which featured live music, traditional healing services, karaoke, volleyball and soccer tournaments, dancing and children’s activities. We came together to celebrate and recognize the countless contributions that immigrant communities and all workers make to the cultural, economic and social fabric of our city. We celebrated our most recent win: passing resolution 18-7 to strengthen Albuquerque’s status as an immigrant-friendly city. Fabiola Bawden, an immigrant mother and an organizer with El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos reaffirmed the contributions of immigrant families, “At El CENTRO, we have new and longstanding strong leaders who are the pioneers of our local campaigns. Our members are mostly low-wage immigrant workers, many of them are students and parents, yet they take time from their busy lives to continue in la lucha.

We recognize the vital role immigrants play in New Mexico’s workforce. Edgar Salinas, a carpenter, father of three, and a member of El CENTRO’s Workers Committee talks about his role organizing El CENTRO’s Workers’ Justice Month as a proud immigrant worker, “Throughout May, we highlighted the stories of our workers, we educated about wage theft, labor abuses and ways to organize to fight for labor rights, and we recruited new workers interested in fighting back! We were out at local neighborhoods, on the streets, churches and other community spaces doing outreach, speaking with people and advocating for workers’ rights!”

At this event, low-wage workers and immigrant communities stood together in celebration of New Mexico’s legacy of promoting immigrant and workers rights. A resilient long-time member of the Workers Committee, immigrant working grandmother, Norma Gomez, reflected about the years of resistance coming from immigrant and working families, “Today, we celebrate our local victories. We are proud of the jobs we do, and we are proud to be New Mexican.”

We also uplifted the support of local immigrant business owners who contribute so much to the economic and sustainability of New Mexican neighborhoods. Many of El CENTRO’s local leaders are parents, business owners and active members of their communities. Bertha Campos, owner of Mujeres en Acción, and a single mother talks about the importance of celebrating working families during May Day, “For years, community organizations, religious groups, and labor groups have gathered on this day to act and fight for our communities.

We, El CENTRO are proud of the all support provided by our own members, ally organizations, elected officials, labor unions, educators, businesses, workers, and families. Your help was essential in making this May Day Community Celebration a success.

We would like to thank the following groups for donating their services that made this day a success:

- Ballet Folklórico Desoluna
- Circulo Solar Ollin Xochipilli Danza Azteca
- Cooperativa Justa
- DJ Tequila
- El Trio Latino de ABQ
- Grupo de Danza Mayahuel Kalpulli Izcalli
- Professional Clowning Payasita Lollipop
- Radio Lobo
- Tacos Sánchez
- Tamborazo Loko

Thank you to the following organizations for co-sponsoring our events:

- Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice
- Albuquerque Teachers Federation (ATF)
- Arts Community Culture Education Sports Science (ACCESS NM)
- Encuentro NM
- Grupo de Danza Mayahuel Kalpulli Izcalli
- JUNTOS: Our Air, Our Water
- New Mexico Dream Team (NMDT)
- Organizers of the Land of Enchantment (OLE)
- Partnership for Community Action (PCA)
- South West Organizing Project (SWOP)
- Taquería México



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**WORKERS' RIGHTS ORIENTATIONS**

WHEN: June 11 & 25, & July 9 & 23 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](http://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, a plan can include WHO CAN: look after your children or pick them up from school, pay your bail, keep in contact with you if you are detained, provide you legal advice, pay your bills, or deal with financial matters. For an example of a plan, visit our website [www.elcentronm.org](http://www.elcentronm.org)

**REMAIN CALM AND SILENT!**  
 If you are being questioned by an immigration agent, including on the street, you do not have to reveal your country of origin or immigration status. If you decide to talk, and they capture you, they can arrest you. If you are arrested, you can give your "know your rights" card or say "I do not want to answer any questions" and then, "I want to talk to a lawyer".

**DON'T OPEN THE DOOR!**  
 In your home, you have the right not to open the door (even if ICE has an arrest warrant or deportation order). To enter by force, they need a search warrant.

**DOCUMENT EVERYTHING!**  
 Use your mobile phone to record any interaction and document the names of the officers or the badge number, the color of their uniform, the appearance of their vehicle and if the officers are working with other departments.

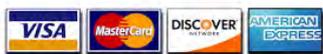
**NEVER SHOW FALSE DOCUMENTS!**  
 Do not lie, even about being a citizen. Do not show any document foreign, as a passport, consular identification or expired visa that ICE can use to identify their country of origin or citizenship.

**AT WORK**  
 • If ICE enters your work, you have the right to remain silent, keep working, and tell them to talk to your supervisor. You do not have to disclose your country of origin or immigration status, or show any identification. You have to clearly mark private and public places. La Migra can not enter the private areas of your workplace without a search warrant or permission from the employer or business manager.  
 • If you are a small business owner or a manager, during an I-9 inspection, ICE must give you a 72-hour notice. Do not give them permission to have access to private places, keep your I-9 documents in a separate place to your other files, speak with a lawyer, and remind your employees of their right to remain silent. For a more complete list of tips about your rights and how you can protect your employees, go to <http://www.elcentronm.org>.

**DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING!**  
 Do not sign a document if you do not understand it or if you have not talked to a lawyer about your legal options.

**ORGANIZE!**  
 Participate in organizations such as El Centro to defend rights and fight against deportations. Make a plan with your coworkers so they can act in solidarity to protect the rights of all.

EL CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos  
 @ElCentrodelaIgualdadYDerechos @ELCENTRO\_NM  
 elcentronm.org (505)246-1627



**El CENTRO Calls on Our Communities to Vote!**

Throughout the past weeks, our Get-Out to Vote (GOTV) canvassers have been knocking on the doors of thousands of households in New Mexico to encourage our families who are eligible to vote in Bernalillo County to participate in Bernalillo's County Primary Election. Marian Mendez-Cera, one of our civil rights and workers' justice organizer with El CENTRO explains the importance of participating in this upcoming primary elections, "We have a wide diversity of candidates running to represent District 1 in Congress. This diversity of candidates reflects the multiple backgrounds of our New Mexican communities. We will canvass 5000 houses to encourage voters to choose a candidate that would best reflect our New Mexican values."

The day of the election is Tuesday, June 5; the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information in Bernalillo County contact the Bernalillo County Clerk at: phone: (505) 243-VOTE (8683), location: One Civic Plaza NW 6th Floor, Albuquerque, NM 87102. Website: <https://www.berncogov/clerk/>

If you live outside Bernalillo County, you can contact the Secretary of State's Office for more information at: 505.827.3600 or visit: [http://www.sos.state.nm.us/uploads/files/2018%20Candidate%20Guide%20v2\\_2.pdf](http://www.sos.state.nm.us/uploads/files/2018%20Candidate%20Guide%20v2_2.pdf)



**Luchadora del Mes: Monica Ramirez, activist, immigrant mother, and a worker at Albuquerque Public Schools**

This month we highlight Monica Ramirez. She is an immigrant grandmother who works preparing food for (APS). Monica became involved with El CENTRO as part of our Defensores de Familia program (Family Defenders). She was interested in using her time and energy to participate in protecting and raising the voices of our families. Monica explains her motivation in participating in our latest campaigns, particularly in our campaign for paid sick leave, "I became an active member with El CENTRO because I was passionate about fighting for the rights of our communities, especially labor rights. I volunteered because when my children were small, my job at that time did not offer paid leave. I sacrificed a day's pay many times when my children were sick, and I did not have anyone to take care of them. Now that my daughter is a mother, I use

because I do not want my daughter to make the same hard choices I did." Monica expresses her drive to continue being an activist with El CENTRO, and she encourages other members to remain active, "I will continue participating in El CENTRO's fights for labor justice, and I encourage other members to continue working towards better protections and rights for our working families." We, at El CENTRO, recognize that our strength has always come and will continue to come directly from our members. Thank you! If you would like to get involved or learn more about our Civil Rights workshops, contact Fabiola Bawden at [fbawden\\_@yahoo.com](mailto:fbawden_@yahoo.com), Marian Méndez at [mmendez\\_elcentro@yahoo.com](mailto:mmendez_elcentro@yahoo.com), or call 505-246-1627.

