



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

News

For Immediate Release

February 5, 2016

Contact: Michael A. Walker
(609) 989-3033

Trenton Mayor Eric Jackson Joins Call to Stop ICE Raids

Trenton, N.J. — Mayor Eric Jackson, his Latino Advisory Council (L.A.C.), and a coalition of Latino civic and nonprofit organizations, have come together to address the growing fear and misinformation among the city's immigrant community about the recently announced campaign of arrests conducted by the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the arrests will target children and families who have been fleeing from the violence and poverty in Central American countries and seeking refuge in the United States. In particular, ICE/DHS are targeting families that were apprehended on or after January 1, 2014 while crossing the border from Mexico. Thousands of these migrants, mostly minors and women, have been issued deportation orders, in most cases in absentia and without their knowledge.

"These kinds of immigration enforcement policies are unfortunate. They damage the work that cities like Trenton are doing to foster trust between immigrant communities and local government, and to build an inclusive community," said Mayor Jackson. Police Director Ernest Parrey stated that "The Trenton Police Department is committed to protecting all law abiding members of the community, regardless of immigration status or nationality."

No such arrests have taken place in Trenton. However, residents have expressed concern over a perceived increase in ICE presence in our City. To address such concerns, the local coalition of groups, including the Latino Civic Forum, LALDEF/Welcome House, El Centro/Catholic Charities, with support from the mayor's administration has launched a citywide effort to ensure broad dissemination amongst the immigrant community of accurate information regarding local impact, and the position of Mayor Jackson on protecting human rights, and ensuring access for all residents to city services. Additionally, to conduct forums across the city to inform and educate Trenton residents about their rights and help them to know how to respond to ICE agents in the event that they show up at their homes. The next forum/community information session will take place on Monday, February 8th at the Sam Naples Center, 611 Chestnut St., at 6 p.m.

- more -

Trenton Mayor Eric Jackson Joins Call to Stop ICE Raids

We want residents to be confident that this administration, especially the Trenton Police Department, will defend the human rights of all citizens, as well as continue to enforce its policy of immigrant access to city services regardless of their immigration status.

With these steps, Mayor Jackson joins the 23+ Senate Democrats, and other national, state and local leaders in urging an immediate end to DHS's immigration raids program.

In the event that any ICE action takes place in Trenton, those affected are encouraged to call the Trenton Police Department at 609-989-4170. For legal questions or more information on specific immigration cases, please contact El Centro de Familias of Catholic Charities at 609-394-2056 or Welcome House-Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund at 609-688-0881.

#