

The Fairfax County Democratic Committee Condemns and Urges Revocation of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office ISGA Contract to Cooperate with ICE

Whereas,

Immigrations and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") arrests and conducts deportations of people whose immigration status fails to comply with federal requirements, regardless of whether such persons have a criminal record or pose a threat to the community.

The Trump Administration, led by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, has announced its intention to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program ("DACA"), which defers deportation for immigrants with no criminal record who were brought to America without documentation when under 16 years old.

In Virginia and Fairfax County, ICE has detained persons with no criminal record in and around churches, schools, shelters and hospitals, notably conducting arrests at Centreville Elementary School and the hypothermia shelter at Rising Hope Methodist Church.

The Fairfax County Government, through the Sheriff's Office, recently entered into a contract ("ISGA") to cooperate with ICE until March 31, 2022.

Under the Fairfax County-ICE agreement, the Fairfax County Sheriff agrees to hold persons, at ICE's request, including undocumented persons with pending DACA applications, for up to 48 hours so that ICE can "assure their presence for removal from the United States."

The Trump administration's immigration policies risk making our community more dangerous by discouraging undocumented immigrants to cooperate with law enforcement to identify and discourage violent criminal activity or report when they are the victims of violence.

A federal District Court held, in a ruling which applies nationwide, that the Trump administration cannot require municipalities to cooperate with ICE in order to receive public safety funding.

Deporting immigrants who lack proper documentation but have lived peacefully and productively in our community for years violates fundamental human decency, the values of the Democratic Party, and the values of the United States of America.

The platform of the Democratic Party, adopted at the 2016 Democratic National Convention, affirms, "We will promote best practices among local law enforcement, in terms of how they collaborate with federal authorities, to ensure that they maintain and build trust between local law enforcement and the communities they serve. We will also vigorously oversee any programs put in place, to make sure that there are no abuses and no arbitrary deportation programs."

On February 24, 2017, The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution entitled, "The Statement on Diversity and Inclusion," that pledges, "Whereas, we do not ask, nor do we have the resources for, our police officers to become immigration officials, nor for Fairfax County to assume the responsibilities of federal immigration officials; Whereas, Fairfax County Police successfully engage in community policing, which requires the trust of residents who are not afraid to call law enforcement if their safety is at risk, or to report information that may help to solve a crime," yet has failed to take any action to oppose or rescind the ISGA.

Therefore be it resolved, the Fairfax County Democratic Committee:

1. Condemns the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office contract ("ISGA") with ICE, and urges its revocation by the Sheriff's Office and/or Board of Supervisors; and
2. Urges that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors practice the values pledged in their "Statement on Diversity and Inclusion," to not absorb federal responsibilities with respect to immigration enforcement ("ISGA"), but instead work to ensure members of the community feel safe to interact with law enforcement.