

April 24, 2018

To:

Curtis W. Morris, Mayor
Emmett Badar, Council Member
Denis Bertone, Mayor Pro Tem
John Ebiner, Council Member
Ryan A. Vienna, Council Member

RE: Safeguarding the Civil Rights, Dignity and Values for All San Dimas residents, including immigrants

Dear Mayor Morris,

We, the __XX__ undersigned civil rights, immigrant rights, faith-based and social justice organizations call on the city of San Dimas to protect and uphold due process measures for everyone in the city regardless of status. The recent threats to undermine the California Values Act (SB 54), which was signed into law in October of 2017 and went into effect on January 1st, 2018, have raised uncertainty, confusion, and fear among immigrant community members and their families. The truth is that the California Values Act serves to protect the safety and well-being of all Californians by ensuring that our state and local resources are not used to fuel mass deportations. This law also helps schools, libraries, health facilities, shelters, and courts remain accessible to all Californians.

The Values Act prohibits law enforcement agencies from using agency moneys or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes. More specifically to the issue on hand, the Values Act also prohibits law enforcement agencies from performing the functions of an immigration officer and prohibits placing officers under the supervision of federal agencies, or of deputizing officers as special federal officers, for purposes of immigration enforcement. Cal. Gov't Code § 7284.6(a)(2).

In San Dimas as well as in the Southern California region, immigrants are a vital part of our families and communities. We need to recognize the humanity of every person who calls this city their home, no matter their background, what they look like, or where they were born. However, the federal government has failed to create a workable immigration process. That means there is no "line to get in" for millions of our neighbors and friends, who face increasing persecution, detention, and deportation. That is why the state and cities like San Dimas need to ensure that those living, working, and contributing to their communities can feel safe.

President Trump's lawsuit against state of California should be seen for what it is: a political attempt to please his supporters while trying to coerce local law enforcement to help his deportation machine. We reject his hateful, political games, and we expect the city leaders to do the same.

Using local police to carry out mass deportations fuels racial profiling and wrongful arrests, and further undermines trust between communities and law enforcement. Now, more than ever, California must stand up to Trump's policies and protect our values of inclusion and equality.

San Dimas is home to a vibrant small business community and many major shopping centers. If the City Council takes action in support of the administration's deportation agenda at this time, that will create fear and anxiety among its residents and those who work, shop, and visit the city. Many immigrants may take their business elsewhere- as the city will be associated with an anti-immigrant agenda.

We ask that the San Dimas city council reject any motions that are fueled by hate and division. Instead, city leaders should reaffirm that the city will protect all of its residents, regardless of status. If we stand up for our values of equality and inclusion, we will move San Dimas forward.

Sincerely,

ORGANIZATION'S NAMES