



# Agenda

## IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tuesday, August 21, 2018**  
**Market Station**  
**Caboose Room**  
**500 Market Station**  
**4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: July 10, 2018
4. Community Comments
5. New Business/Action Items:
  1. Recent ICE enforcement Activity in Santa Fe
  2. Language Access Justice Trainings—Request for Co-sponsorship (Presentation by Nicole Laudicina, Training Coordinator)
  3. Report from Welcoming Cities/Welcoming Economies Conference (Marcela)
  4. Census 2020 citizenship question impact on Santa Fe—Request for public comment to the U.S. Census Bureau
  5. Presentation on Municipal Drug Strategy Taskforce and Community Conversations (Emily Kaltenbach, drug Policy Alliance)
  6. SFPS Check-in security system
6. Old Business:
  - a. Subcommittee Updates:
    - Welcoming Communities
    - Education
    - Social Media & Communications
    - Refugee Resettlement
    - Police Department
    - Update on language access needs assessment
    - Update on training for city staff regarding immigration policies and bilingual incentive program.
    - Update on MVD emergency rule regarding Driver's Authorization card and Non-Real ID identification card issuance)Gabriela Ibanez Guzman, Somos un Pueblo Unido )
    - Update on meeting with Superintendent Garcia
7. Comments from the Chair and Committee Members
8. Report from Staff
9. Adjournment

**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NEED OF ACCOMMODATIONS, CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 955-6520, FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO MEETING DATE.**

RECEIVED AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE: 8/15/18

TIME: 10:04 AM

IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE  
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Approval of Minutes July 10, 2018 <b>Question: Minutes from May 8, 2018 need to be reviewed and signed.</b>  Page 6: Ms. Guerrero's comment: they we need his help... Page 5: Paragraph 7: ICE does not have jurisdiction to stop someone because they are looking for someone else [should say] ICE does not have jurisdiction to stop someone in their vehicle just because they are looking for someone else.	<b><i>Ms. Sayre moved to approve to the Minutes of July 10, 2018 as amended, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i></b>  <b><i>Ms. Diaz asked staff to check on the minutes from May 8, 2018 meeting; she recalls that they have not yet been approved.</i></b>	Page 2-3
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New Business, Action Items Census 2020 citizenship impact on Santa Fe – Request for public comments to Census Bureau.	<b><i>Ms. Hayre moved to send a recommendation our governing body to have the City be at the table and participate with Santa Fe County - Complete Count Committee and possibly lead in to a Resolution from the City to create a Complete Count Committee or support Santa Fe County, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i></b>  Ms. Hayre made a staff recommendation for the staff liaison to provide this information on motion to the City Manager once the official minutes are in the City Clerks office prior to next meeting.	Page 3 - 8

Presentation on Municipal Drug Strategy Taskforce and Community Conversations	Informational, no formal action.	
Old Business a. Subcommittee Updates - Welcoming Communities - Education - Social Media & Communications - Refugee Settlement - Police Department	Informational, no formal action	Page 8 - 10
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IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

4:30 pm –6:00pm

MINUTES

**1. Call to Order**

Javier Rios, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order for the Immigration Committee at 4:30 pm at the City of Santa Fe Market Station. Roll call reflects a quorum.

**PRESENT:**

Susan Hayre  
Amparo Guerrero  
Marcela Diaz  
Jewel Cabeza de Vaca  
Javier Rios, Acting Chair

**NOT PRESENT:**

Maria Cristina Lopez, Excused

**STAFF/OTHERS PRESENT:**

Lt. Judah Montano, SFPD  
Nasiba Turner, Guest  
Laurie Glaze, Health Policy & Planning, Santa Fe County  
Attiana Virella Fuentes, Guest  
Julia Valdez, Santa Fe County  
Ivan Cornejo, Guest  
Emily Kaltenbach  
Victor Vigil, Staff  
Fran Lucero, Stenographer

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**New Business: Completed 5 a, b and c**

***Ms. Guerrero moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Ms. Sayre, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.***

**3. Approval of Minutes: July 10, 2018**

**Question: Minutes from May 8, 2018 need to be reviewed and signed.**

Page 6: Ms. Guerrero's comment: ~~they~~ we need his help...

Page 5: Paragraph 7: ICE does not have jurisdiction to stop someone because they are looking for someone else [should say] ICE does not have jurisdiction to stop someone in their vehicle just because they are looking for someone else.

***Ms. Sayre moved to approve to the Minutes of July 10, 2018 as amended, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.***

***Ms. Diaz asked staff to check on the minutes from May 8, 2018 meeting; she recalls that they have not yet been approved.***

#### **4. Community Comments**

Introduction of Guests: Ms. Guerrero and Ms. Hayre introduced their guests.

Attiana Virelle Fuentes, Program Coordinator, Adelante, SFPS served 1700 students last year. It was clarified that Adelante is part of the SFPS system and throughout the year they try to do fund raising. Adelante serves students who are experiencing homelessness; living doubled up; living with their grandparents, couch surfing. We try to work with their families to provide them wrap around services. Ms. Hayre noted that the work that Adelante does is super important in her school on the ground with the families. Thank you.

Ms. Nasiba Turner, new member to SFPS district and would like to be active in the community. She likes languages and recently attended a workshop at SOMOS UN Pueblo Unido.

Laurie Glaze, Chair for Santa Fe County Health Policy Planning Commission. Interested in the Census 2020 project and has collaborated with Ms. Valdez from Santa Fe County and would like to work with the City as well.

Emily Kaltenbach, Presenter and (Geneva Kaltenbach)

#### **5. New Business/Action Items**

- a. ~~Recent ICE enforcement activity in Santa Fe~~ - completed
- b. ~~Language access Justice Trainings—Request for co-sponsorship (Presentation by Nicole Laudicina, Training Coordinator)~~ - completed
- c. ~~Report from Welcoming Cities/Welcoming Economies Conference (Marcela Diaz)~~ - completed
- d. Census 2020 citizenship question impact on Santa Fe – Request for public comment to the US Census Bureau

Ms. Diaz asked to keep this on the agenda as a new business action item. At the last meeting we talked about the potential impact on both the citizenship question as well as other obstacles have been placed in our way throughout the country for an adequate census count. SOMOS UN Pueblo Unido joined a multi organization lawsuit that is being spearheaded by MALDEF and is still in the works. There are other lawsuits including one that is being led by attorney generals throughout the country. In early July a federal judge allowed that multi state lawsuit to move forward and basically many of these lawsuits are accusing the Trump Administration of acting in bad faith and it has pushed for this controversial citizenship question. That being said, the citizenship question is not the only obstacle that we will see in our state when it comes to having a complete count especially under hard to count communities like the immigrant community. There are other obstacles as well, it is going to be done for the most part electronically through the Internet, and they may not participate. There is always shrinking funding for citizenship, some changes around the race ethnicity question but many advocates around the country have said it is a little tricky to navigate. There is a big effort across the county despite of what is happening at the federal level and in many ways we can't control or that we are trying to push back through lawsuits. There are also complete count committees. We had asked at the last meeting if Santa was a part of a complete count committee or planning to become a part of the complete count committee and it wasn't clear. The Mayor was at that meeting as well as the Director of Community Services and the following day, I introduced along with our fellow Councilors driven by the Mayor a resolution. It was a resolution passed on August 8<sup>th</sup> in opposition to the Trump Administration efforts to include a question on citizenship for the 2020 Census. It was great to see immediate action by the city in relation to this. It encourages concerned citizens to express their opinions during the public comment period. It also asks that this Resolution be forwarded to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation to oppose the inclusion of a citizenship question. Irrespective of that we need to get a complete count and Santa Fe County has a Resolution and is working to establish a Complete Count Committee. Ms. Diaz recommended that the Immigration Committee have a discussion on how they could help or recommend to participate and be a part of this complete count effort. Ms. Diaz asked if Ms. Valdez could talk about the Santa Fe County Complete Count Committee.

Ms. Valdez noted that she met with the city. Santa Fe County was asked to establish a complete count committee that was approved by the County Commissioners and the Commissioners will vote the members in. The Complete Count Committee is a marketing tool to get the word out and get a complete count. Santa Fe has a high response rate, she believes a

63% vs. the state has 62% response rate. There are new electronic tools to look at different geographic areas to see where the numbers are low. The lowest count is in the city followed by the county. The Complete Count Committee is to help identify those communities to encourage the participation and count. It will be much easier as it will be on-line. California went to malls and public areas, they had pads and people could fill in the information. We stand to make \$6 billion dollars over 10 years in Santa Fe. Right after the Census will be the re-districting. Ms. Valdez will be working on a Resolution to Santa Fe County. In 2020 when the website is active and people begin to be counted and we see there is a low response they will send people there. The Complete Count committee is really to help identify the leaders in those communities that people will trust.

There is a difference between the work of the Census Bureau staff and the Complete Count Committee.

Ms. Diaz asked Ms. Valdez; what is it that the Immigration Committee or the city can help with.

Ms. Valdez said they are working with many organizations, business community, Higher Education, etc., they are suggesting that we get volunteers to communicate with these populations. The message is to assure that if a Census worker goes to a home, more so in rural areas, that they are accepted well. There is a wonderful tool called: roam, it provides really extensive information. Ms. Valdez would like to have someone from the Immigration Committee be on the Complete Count Committee.

Ms. Diaz asked if there is something that this committee can recommend to the city for them to be more involved in the Complete Count Committee.

Ms. Valdez said that this is not an obligation for any city.

Ms. Hayre asked if we could make a recommendation for the City to collaborate with Santa Fe County on the Complete Count Committee.

Ms. Valdez said that she would send the staff liaison the dates for the Complete Count Committee future meetings.

Ms. Cabeza de Vaca said that from this information, it seems that this is still a grass root program at Santa Fe County and suggested not making a recommendation at this time.

Ms. Valdez said that they do have a plan but have not had a kick off meeting at this time. 2019 is a busy time line, as work would need to be completed by March 2020.

***Ms. Hayre moved to send a recommendation our governing body to have the City be at the table and participate with Santa Fe County - Complete Count Committee and possibly lead in to a Resolution from the City to create a Complete Count Committee or support Santa Fe County, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.***

Ms. Hayre made a staff recommendation for the staff liaison to provide this information on motion to the City Manager once the official minutes are in the City Clerks office prior to next meeting.

- e. Presentation on Municipal Drug Strategy Taskforce and Community Conversations (Emily Kaltenbach, State Director for the Drug Policy Alliance)

Ms. Kaltenbach presented on the City Municipal Drug Strategy Task Force and process and noted that is also the Chair of the Mayor's Drug Strategy Task Force and honored to have Marcella Diaz on the task force. The purpose of this group is to bring together experts and impacted individuals in our community to address the harms of problematic drug use in the city and county and also the harms of our current response. We know that is people cycle in and out of the jail they don't get the healthcare to really address the underlining reasons of why they may be engaged in drug use. We also know that it has a big impact on our families. One individual goes in, it might be a parent, how many other individuals in the family are going to be impacted by that in/out of the criminal justice system but also the cycle of problematic use. This task force is being modeled after off of a municipal drug strategy from Ithaca, NY about 4 years ago in which the Mayor and community voices came together. They did not want to recreate what is already happening and we know there are so many task forces and the idea is to think outside the box, it is not to recommend the same thing over and over again. How do we make this a public health and social service response vs. a criminal justice response? We believe our municipal community has a huge voice in addressing both problematic drug use as well as alcohol use. A lot of times citizens have solutions and their input is valuable. It is not waiting for the state and federal government to respond, it is thinking about what policies we can put in to place because we have the power to do in our city. We have a timeline of 8 months and we would like to have a set of recommendations that will go back to the city, city councilors to the public and community.



Ms. Kaltenbach said what they are trying to do differently is route it in the community organizations. Before this task force even started, Ms. Diaz and Ms. Kaltenbach worked together to launch the community conversations in the immigrant community to hear about their perceptions of drug use and how to respond to it and what we could be doing differently. We hope to replicate what Ms. Kaltenbach feels was an incredible process with other voices. We are working right now trying to gather the EMS community, we know that paramedics do this everyday; what kind of ideas do they have, what families are most impacted, drug users themselves, clinicians, law enforcement, mothers, families; we could create all sources of groups. We want this participation to inform them of the work that we are doing. This is also very much harm reduction focus, how do we reduce the harm. We have like 4 buckets; how do we reduce the harm, recommendations that address prevention, treatment and recovery and emergency response. Those findings will be presented to various city committees before they finalize the report and hope to bring back the report to this committee. This task force meets every Thursday 11-1 and all members are invited.

Ms. Diaz said that the tool that SOMOS used was modified by people at SOMOS and it was a community conversation guide, translated in to Spanish, modified on some realities here in Santa Fe, sanctuary policies that we have, we included and there were focus groups (45-60 groups) getting their input on the 4 focus topics. This tool exists and if anyone would want to participate and use this tool in his or her own groups, the tool is available. The more information given to the Municipal Drug Strategy task force the more complete it will be based on the reality of our community solutions.

Ms. Kaltenbach stated that there is information on the website on this task force that was initiated since last October. The City Council extended the Resolution for another 8 months as the task force has just started to meet. Ms. Kaltenbach stated that the overdose statistics have gone down this year statewide; not by a tremendous number. There are still opioid use issues as the rest of the country as experiencing as well as New Mexico and Northern New Mexico. Methamphetamine overdoses are still high and increasing. Most of the EMS calls are related to alcohol. Santa Fe is a perfect place to show how much can be done at the city level and share with the nation. The LEAD program is an example, we were the second in the nation to do that, diverting people pre-arrest so law enforcement would be able to hand off someone who would otherwise be arrested for possessing heroine or drugs illegally. Evidence in Seattle showed that recidivism back in to the community worked better. We would like to learn what other steps can be done, we should think of our economic opportunities and how it coincides with.

Ms. Diaz read from the document on the findings. (Document of findings will be sent to the Immigration Committee members.)

Ms. Kaltenbach said that we are not limiting our recommendations to parents we would like the word to get out to our younger population. Mr. Rios said that reaching out to the Department of Health would be a good resource.

Ms. Guerrero said that all content areas are needs in her organization and invited Ms. Kaltenbach to work with her and SOLACE. Ms. Kaltenbach said that she has resources to assist in an organized meeting.

Lt. Montano said he is part of the LEAD Program although not directly on the task force.

- f. SFPS Check-In Security added under Education report.

## **6. Old Business**

### Subcommittee Updates

#### a) Welcoming Communities

- i. Drivers Authorization
- ii. Update on MVD emergency rule regarding Driver's Authorization card and non-Real ID identification card issuance) Gabriela Guzman, Somos Un Pueblo Unido)

Exhibit A – Press Release – 8/21/18, New Mexicans prevail in driver's license lawsuit as judge signs settlement agreement.

Ms. Guzman provided an update stated that in January SOMOS along with ACLU, Center of Law and Poverty and the Coalition to End Homelessness filed a lawsuit against the Department of Taxation and Revenue – MVD. The two principal points in that lawsuit were exceeding statutory authority by requiring more documents than the law stipulated included, due process constitutional protections because they were not making clear what the license process was. We filed the lawsuit and returned to state court, had a hearing in May for a temporary restraining order and at that hearing MVD officials said, let's talk, we are moving in this direction. The Judge encouraged us to meet. We are now at this juncture with a signed stipulation and order of all the things that MVD has to do and some are already in place. At the end of June they implemented emergency regulations and got rid of one of the points in the lawsuit, which was requiring an identification number, proof of an

identification number. What that means is that they were not only asking for social security number but they were asking applicants for a social security card. There were 6 other plaintiffs including SOMOS. On Friday, Judge Thompson signed the Stipulated Order so that basically seals that this is what MVD must do. Most important in the order is the emergency regulation going in to effect on the Identification Number being required, it added more documents that New Mexicans can show of their age and identity and more documents that New Mexicans can show for proof of residency. It wasn't so much the immigrants getting caught up with this lack of information it was the Homeless New Mexicans, Rural community residences, Senior Citizens, others experiencing difficulties.

They will do a training for MVD staff and contractors, MVD Express, they will update the information they give the public, they will update their internal IT systems, and they will do a public campaign to inform the public of all of these changes.

Ms. Diaz said that they will put a fact sheet out as to what gains have been made, both in English and Spanish. Ms. Diaz asked if the committee members could help to get this information disseminated.

- Intergovernmental Work Group – 10:00 am - September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting chaired by Councilor Renee Villarreal.
- In late September dates are set up for training with the Santa Fe Police Department. Lt. Montano confirmed that Chief Padilla has approved.

**b. Education (Ms. Guerrero and Ms. Lopez)**

- SFPS - Approved the Equity and Diversity Council regarding Fiesta Council visits to the public schools. (Exhibit B)
- Request to meet with the Superintendent Veronica Garcia – sub-committee to prepare strategy collaboratively to extend the invitation to Ms. Garcia. The intent is not only to complain but also to provide topics of concern and interest.
- New Security System – SFPS has been changed. Anyone going in to the school has to show a photo ID. There are many families in the community who have concerns about that.
- Ms. Hayre spoke on her behalf, not on behalf of SFPS. The program is called the check-in system and the idea is to keep people safe when you are in the school. It has made a lot of work for front office staff and the district is working hard to make it a soft roll out so it won't be difficult for parents or those who are trying to go in to the school. Mr. Cornejo said

that there is still feedback at Capital High School on this request. Parents are receptive to why this is being done, it came from a negative to more of a positive. It wasn't just the concern that they had to show their identification it was also that staff had to escort the guest both at beginning to end of meeting. You could not bring someone in without an identification. Another improvement is that with all the multiple entries at Capital High, they all need to go in through one door. Ms. Hayre said that at her school they have to continue to work on the process for those who come in to pick up a student in the middle of day.

**c. Social Media & Communications**

Victor will work with Mr. Rios to get the website up. Ms. Cabeza de Vaca will also get together with Victor to get website up and running.

**d. Refugee Resettlement**

**e. Police Department**

Lt. Montano said he looks forward to the training. Also, there is a shortage of Santa Fe Police Officers, APD offered raises and we are losing police officers. Lt. Montano said if there is a need in certain neighborhoods, to please let him know and he will work to get services.

Ms. Hayre shared an incident that had taken place with a family home break in and the kindergarten student's backpack had been stolen. A few hours later the SFPD officers came to the school with a new backpack. The parent had the faith to

**f. Update on language access needs assessment**

**g. Update on training for city staff regarding immigration policies and bilingual incentive program**

Victor is working with the new HR director for item f and g.

Victor is also working on future meeting with SFPS

Superintendent and asked if there could be alternate dates. The Immigration Committee members said yes.

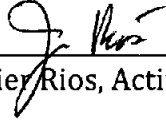
**7. Comments from the Chair and Committee Members**

**8. Report from Staff**

9. Adjournment

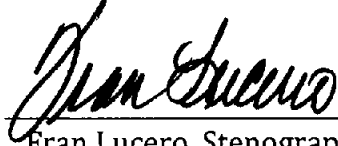
There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Signature



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Javier Rios, Acting Chair



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Fran Lucero, Stenographer

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

**Contact:** Emmanuelle "Neza" Leal-Sanchez, *Somos*, 505-307-5034, [neza@somosunpueblounido.org](mailto:neza@somosunpueblounido.org) or  
Micah McCoy, ACLU, 972-740-6675, [mccoy@aclu-nm.org](mailto:mccoy@aclu-nm.org) or  
Maria Archuleta, NMCLP, 505-255-2840, [maria.a@nmpoertylaw.org](mailto:maria.a@nmpoertylaw.org)

## **New Mexicans prevail in driver's license lawsuit as judge signs settlement agreement**

SANTA FE, NM – On Tuesday, civil rights groups and homeless advocates announced a settlement agreement reached in a lawsuit against the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department (NMTRD) and the Motor Vehicles Division (MVD) that requires the state to properly implement its two-tiered driver's license law and take much-needed steps to ensure New Mexicans have easier access to an alternative to the federal REAL ID as state legislators intended.

"Everyday New Mexicans came out on top today," said David Coss, former mayor of Santa Fe and lead plaintiff in the lawsuit filed in January. "I look forward to finally obtaining my state license knowing that other people won't have to go through the difficult and frustrating process I did. I believe that government should create opportunities for residents to get ahead, not barriers that get in their way. This settlement ensures fewer barriers and restored access to these essential documents."

The lawsuit *Coss v. Monforte* challenged MVD's regulations governing the issuance of non-REAL ID driver's licenses and identification cards, including the illegal practices of requiring proof of an "identification number" and not providing adequate due process to applicants who were denied a credential. The roll out of those regulations caused many applicants across the state to be wrongly denied a license or ID, and in countless cases, it triggered multiple visits to MVD and other government agencies for additional documentation not required by law.

On Friday afternoon, Santa Fe First Judicial District Court Judge David K. Thomson signed the settlement agreement between MVD, organizational plaintiffs and individual plaintiffs delineating what the MVD must do to have the case dismissed with prejudice.

Under the settlement agreement, the MVD will:

- No longer require proof of an identification number, such as a social security number, to apply for a Driving Authorization Card (DAC) or non-federally compliant identification card.
- Implement new regulations that will only require proof of New Mexico residency, identity and age for a non-REAL ID credential.
- Expand the list of acceptable documents to show proof of New Mexico residency, identity and age.
- Inform applicants who are denied a (DAC) or non-federally compliant identification card on the basis of a fingerprint background check of the reason for the denial, evidence the applicant can provide MVD to resolve the denial and information on how to appeal a denial and the timeframe for doing so.
- Provide additional training to MVD clerks and public information regarding the new rules and policies.



In 2016, New Mexico lawmakers created a two-tiered driver's license system that gives New Mexicans the choice to opt in or out of the federal REAL ID Act. While the state law requires MVD to provide a REAL ID-compliant license or ID card to New Mexicans who can meet the federal government's burdensome requirements, the MVD is also required to issue a non-REAL ID license or ID card to eligible applicants who do not meet the federal requirements or simply do not want a REAL ID.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit included senior citizens, immigrants, and homeless New Mexicans who need a license or ID to go to work or school, obtain housing, medical care or other necessities.

**The following are additional statements from plaintiff organizations and the legal team:**

"A broad coalition of community groups, public safety advocates and legislators has worked together over a 15-year span to ensure that all New Mexicans have the ability to apply for a license or ID, critical tools in navigating every day life," said Marcela Díaz, Executive Director of *Somos Un Pueblo Unido*, an organizational plaintiff in the lawsuit. "The onerous and misguided federal REAL ID Act threatened our common sense licensing policies, but the Legislature pushed back and gave us a real alternative that meets the needs of New Mexicans. We are satisfied that through this agreement, citizens and non-citizens alike will have access to accurate information about the non-REAL ID license, as well as a more efficient process to obtain it."

"This agreement is an important victory for New Mexicans experiencing homelessness," said Hank Hughes, Executive Director of New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness. "Obtaining an identification card is often the first step for someone who has lost everything, as they put their life back together. This agreement removes the unnecessary barriers that were in place with the old regulations."

"We applaud the professionalism of MVD officials in hammering out this agreement with our organizations," said Gabriela Ibañez Guzmán, staff attorney with *Somos Un Pueblo Unido* and co-counsel in the lawsuit. "The settlement represents a sensible solution that will benefit hardworking New Mexicans and ensure that people are not left without a driver's license or ID."

"We're relieved the MVD has agreed to stop asking New Mexicans to provide unnecessary documentation in order to get a non-REAL ID license or ID," said Sovereign Hager, supervising attorney at the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty. "MVD's decision to comply with our state law benefits all New Mexicans, but especially families who do not have a stable place to live or consistent employment. An ID or driver's license is a basic necessity to do just about anything. Without one, you can't drive, fill a prescription, cash a check, find housing, or get job to support your family. We hope MVD will continue to work on common sense improvements that will streamline access to IDs and licenses for all New Mexicans."

"The federal REAL ID was a bad law that imposed unnecessary identification requirements on New Mexico residents," said ACLU of New Mexico executive director Peter Simonson. "In its wisdom, the Legislature passed a law to ensure compliance while also guaranteeing our most vulnerable residents have opportunity to continue access to a driver's license or state ID and today's settlement agreement allows that purpose to be fulfilled. That said, we believe there is more work to do to ensure New Mexico residents are left out due to fingerprinting requirements and other obstacles."

Individual plaintiffs who were denied licenses and ID cards are joined by organizational plaintiffs New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness and *Somos Un Pueblo Unido* in the lawsuit. David Urias of Freedman, Boyd, Hollander Goldberg Urias & Ward, P.A. is the lead counsel on the legal team that includes attorneys from *Somos*, ACLU-NM, and the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty.

The defendants in the lawsuit are the TRD, acting Cabinet Secretary John Monforte, the MVD, and Acting Director Alicia Ortiz.

**[Click here to view a fact sheet on the settlement agreement.](#)**

**[Click here to view the signed settlement agreement.](#)**

XXX

*Somos Un Pueblo Unido is a statewide immigrant-led civil and workers' rights organization with membership teams in ten counties and offices in Santa Fe and Roswell. Somos spearheaded a campaign in 2003 with law enforcement officials, victims rights agencies, and faith and civil rights groups to require qualified undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses.*

*The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness was founded in 2000 to lead a comprehensive coordinated and strategic response to homelessness. It has 70 member organizations that providing housing and services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.*

*ACLU-NM is dedicated to preserving and advancing the civil rights and legal freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Its primary focus is on issues that affect residents of the state of New Mexico-LGBT equality, freedom of speech, reproductive freedom, immigrants' rights, privacy concerns, police abuses, fair treatment of prisoners, and more. ACLU has helped lead the fight against the REAL ID Act since 2005.*

*The New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty is dedicated to advancing economic and social justice through education, advocacy, and litigation. We work with low-income New Mexicans to improve living conditions, increase opportunities and protect the rights of people living in poverty.*





August 20, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians of SFPS Students:

On August 8, the SFPS Board of Education voted to accept the recommendations of the Superintendent's Equity & Diversity Council regarding Fiesta Court visits to the public schools. The vote was made in an effort to be respectful to all students as the Santa Fe community continues to move toward reconciliation and peace.

It's important for you to know that there are strong opinions that the Fiesta Council visits should be eliminated all together and strong opinions that the tradition of the school visits remains.

The vote to accept the recommendations is a compromise position at this current time. As we go forward, there will be continuing dialogue so that we can learn from each other regarding our traditions, their impact on learning and how we can be inclusive of all the traditions which make Santa Fe a unique place.

Students in grades 4, 7 and 9, where New Mexico History is taught, will receive Fiesta Court visits, based on the Fiesta Council's schedule. Teachers' lesson plans will be aligned to state standards and provide a comprehensive and balanced view of the state's history from multiple perspectives, with relevant resources shared with students. Only students in these grades will be allowed to participate. SFPS will continue to allow an opt-out option for grades 4, 7 and 9.

Additionally, schools will no longer participate in the past practice whereby the Fiesta Council selected students for the roles of Little La Reina and Little Don Diego de Vargas.

As your superintendent, I take seriously my responsibility for the well-being and success of all our students. I promise to continue to place that responsibility above all as we work together to better understand, and be sensitive to, differing viewpoints and experiences. I want every student to feel respected and valued. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Veronica C. Garcia, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Board of Education  
Superintendent's Cabinet  
All Principals  
All Assistant Principals  
Melissa Mascarena, Santa Fe Fiesta Council President