



Latino Civic Alliance
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U.S. BORDER PATROL NEW MEXICO TEACHING SPANISH in WASHINGTON STATE

STATEMENT FROM LCA BOARD CHAIR IN RESPONSE TO PASCO CITY COUNCIL DECISION TO NOT REMOVE POLICE CHIEF FOR AUTHORIZING U.S. BORDER PATROL TO TEACH SPANISH TO POLICE

Pasco WA. 7.13.2018. In response to the Pasco City Council meeting on Monday, July 9, 2018 and the council's current decision to not move on any decision regarding LCA's position that the Pasco Police Chief should step down or be removed: We strongly feel that we as LCA must and will continue to respond to the calls we received from the residents of Pasco and Franklin County. We are not changing our position, because for too long the actions of local, county, and state public agencies have negatively impacted our immigrant families over generations. LCA will continue to stand by the voices that are under attack by the immigration crisis in our country.

The Latino Civic Alliance (LCA) is a statewide organization but has local representation of Board Members in eastern Washington including: Pasco, Richland, Yakima, Moses Lake, Toppenish, and other parts of the state and its purpose is to hold elected officials, city, county, and state government accountable to their constituents. Our Board and Supporters consist of a broad spectrum from U.S. military, Educators, Healthcare, Law Enforcement, Farm workers, Labor, Business Owners, Immigrants, Environment, Non-Profits and more.

In respect to the City of Pasco New Council members that transitioned earlier this year are being introduced to system that has long been established. We understand they are challenged to represent various voices and new complexities. We hope they create and add new vision and systemic processes that can reflect all Latino voices in the Pasco Community. LCA supported City of Pasco three years ago on 2015 after the incident that involved a Pasco resident who was killed by Pasco Police officers. We believed it was important to provide community forums to work with the Police Chief, City Leadership, and help bring the community together. The recent action by the Pasco Police Chief was unexpected and disappointing.

LCA stands firm in our belief that it was wrong for the Pasco Police Chief to use New Mexico U.S Border Patrol to teach Spanish. This is not a reflection of the hard-working Pasco police officers that protect and serve. We believe new leadership is needed. It made no logical sense to do this when there are multiple state law enforcement agencies that have members that speak Spanish and could teach it, including the current respective Pasco Police officers that speak Spanish that serve the city and have personal knowledge of its community and culture. LCA is committed to support any law enforcement agency with assistance in search of language services

The Pasco Chief could also have reached out to other national organizations like the Hispanic Police Officers Association (HPOA), whose purpose is to inform, educate, unify, and access its membership and cities across the nation that have Latino police officers. But, instead the Chief used a federal agency, the U.S Border patrol. (CONT next page)

Now, in respect to the Franklin County Sheriff also authorizing some deputies to attend the same Spanish training. LCA plans to address our concerns with the Sheriff and Franklin County Commissioners directly to reiterate our position that it was wrong and threatening to our immigrant communities. We know that ICE has a strong presence in Franklin, surrounding counties and recently detained residents. As mentioned above the Franklin County Sheriff had other resources to teach their deputies Spanish but instead used U.S. Border Patrol. We strongly object and believe this alienates the Latino community.

Lastly, LCA values the opinions of many that agree or disagree with LCA's position. However, we will not tolerate any scare tactics, verbal or physical harassment or threats of violence against LCA and our supporters for our position on this matter. We will use all legal options in defending our position. We find ourselves in a time where the national climate currently alienates our immigrant communities. Tactics including forcefully separating families and threats to physical well being are counter productive to full integration of immigrants into our communities. Additionally, messages from law enforcement suggesting their agreements with those tactics discourages residents from fully cooperating with community safety objectives. We will continue to take a strong stance against any possible threats to vulnerable voices and will not be deterred for doing what we believe is ethically and morally correct.

- Nina Martinez, Board Chair, Latino Civic Alliance

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