



Strengthening Immigrant Rights Through Community Action

Date

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Duration

1h 15m



Summary

Detailed Summary of Community Response Meeting

Date: November 12, 2025

Location: Virtual, Charlotte, NC

Attendance: ~350 participants, including nonprofit leaders, elected officials, advocates, legal professionals, and representatives from other U.S. cities (notably Chicago)

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Main Topics Discussed

1. Support for Businesses & Community Asset Mapping

- **Contact List of "Helpers":** Robust directory maintained, including legal, immigration, youth, refugee support, educational, and faith-based entities.
- **Economic Disruption Concerns:** Increased immigration enforcement leads to business decline, especially for those disproportionately affected (restaurants, salons, tiendas, bookstores, etc.).
- **Asset Mapping:** Identified 11 commercial nodes in Charlotte to track at-risk businesses. No master list; access via an interactive map.
- **Offer to Assist Other Neighborhoods:** Willingness to help other Charlotte communities create similar maps.
- **Resource Sharing:** Plan to centralize and share lists and maps online.

2. Family Support Network & Latin American Coalition Update

- **Coalition's Response:** 25+ years of experience repurposed for the current crisis; re-established the Family Support Network (FSN, formerly Family Defense Network).
- **Focus & Strategy:**
 - Preventative (e.g., Power of Attorney, Know Your Rights workshops)

- Reactive support networks (active phone line, support for food insecurity, mental health, etc.)
- Advocacy for comprehensive immigration reform
- Dignity and family unity emphasis
- **Current Challenges:**
 - Aggressive ICE enforcement and changing legal landscape (e.g., DACA, TPS, citizenship process)
 - Fear tactics causing self-deportation, trauma
 - Lack of volunteers, capacity, and legal options
 - Funding limitations and organizational burnout
- **Support Infrastructure:**
 - FSN email active (fsn@svcnlac.org), phone line and assigned intake staff
 - Partnerships: Hispanic Federation, Carolina Migrant Network, mental health/dental/legal/faith groups, consulates
 - Communications campaign to counter fear and negative messaging

3. ArtBridge & Youth Outreach

- **Organization Overview:** After-school and wraparound services for newly arrived immigrant and refugee children at two Charlotte sites (East and Southwest).
- **Current Response:**
 - Expanding mental health access (therapists, play therapy)
 - Emergency funds—already tripled disbursement compared to last year; need for more as families avoid public spaces
 - Coordinated rides to groceries/clinics due to fear of public activity
- **Upcoming Events & Needs:**
 - November 19, 2025: Event on funding and program sustainability (federal cuts anticipated in summer 2026)
 - Volunteer/pro bono connections requested
 - Trauma-informed care training for service providers

4. Legal Rights, Advice, & Ally Guidelines

- **Presented by Attorney Jamila Espinosa:**

- Core legal rights: right to remain silent (applies to all, regardless of legal status), right to refuse search unless presented with a judge-signed warrant (public vs. private areas outlined)
- Importance of non-disclosure: Do not voluntarily reveal status to ICE
- Emergency family planning (contact info for schools, trusted people, power of attorney)—imperative for single parents and sole caregivers
- Information validation: Use trained hotlines for suspected ICE activity before sharing widely (Comunidad Collectiva ICE Hotline emphasized)
- Allies: Spread information, observe from a safe distance, avoid physical or legal confrontation
- Bond and detention logistics: Delays in locator system; need for reputable legal referrals; many detained end up out-of-state

5. International House: Community Resource Access

- **Organization Services:**

- Resource hub (The Hug): walk-in and virtual consultations, multilingual staff, interpreter-trained team
- Legal clinic (currently at capacity, reopening expected early January 2026; web intake form suggested)
- Adult education: English class registration opens December 1, 2025
- Focus on never sending clients away empty-handed—warm handoffs, referrals, vetted attorney lists

- **Internal Actions:**

- Revising signage/public vs. private space
- Upcoming staff/intern training, including role-play for ICE scenarios
- Maintaining a safe and welcoming environment

6. Carolina Migrant Network & Rapid Response Systems

- **Services Provided:**

- Pro bono legal defense for detained individuals

- Organizing branch (Comunidad Collectiva) operates a bilingual ICE activity hotline
- New mass text notification system for real-time verified ICE activity alerts (opt-in with "JOIN"/"JUNTAR")
- Mecklenburg Rapid Response resource sheet in development; Google form for resource providers
- Verifier training scheduled (Friday at Shaloh Home Center)
- Public information session (Facebook Live) scheduled for tomorrow night
- Online Know Your Rights resources, family contact guides, and detention support FAQs available
- Bond representation capacity highly limited; caution against predatory attorneys
- Collaboration with Indivisible and protest organizer networks

7. Action NC & Organizing Efforts

- **Mission:** Statewide grassroots community organizing, not direct services. Focus on empowerment, policy change, and resistance organizing.
- **Current Efforts:**
 - Coalition building with unions, nonprofits, advocacy/organizing groups (including Indivisible)
 - Community Know Your Rights and Power of Attorney clinics (in partnership with local attorneys)
 - Convening artists/creatives to contribute to advocacy and messaging
 - Elected official engagement: Push for proactive, actionable support
 - Upcoming Events: International Migrants Day mobilization, holding corporations accountable
 - Offices based at Galilee Center, Central Ave.

8. CMS (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools) & Student Support

- **Updates Delivered by Board Member Liz Monterey Duvall:**

- Messaging being crafted for immediate dissemination via ParentSquare app (push notification and email in English and Spanish), possibly via SMS
- Website resource updates forthcoming; coordination strongly encouraged to avoid misinformation
- Protocols: ICE not invited, not permitted on private school property without a judicial warrant verified by general counsel
- Staff instructed to defer to central legal for all ICE interactions; signage and boundaries clearly communicated
- Providing counseling supports to students and families
- Concern about student absenteeism due to fear—discussions with Charlotte East Progressive Moms and others about organizing school escorts and support networks
- Open to feedback and resource sharing; commitment to constructive engagement

9. Mutual Aid and Crisis Response Coordination

- **Overview by Community Organizer (Kate Cruz):**
 - Crisis response Signal group established (originated post-far right mobilization)
 - Building a vetted volunteer/skills database for mutual aid (food delivery, rides, errands, etc.)
 - Centralized intake: Email vetting for volunteers, affiliations, neighborhoods, and skills
 - Network will refer/redirect to existing groups for frontline verification (Indivisible, Carolina Migrant Network) while serving as mutual aid hub
 - Emphasis on community resilience, normalization of anxiety/discomfort, inclusive call for volunteers

10. Lessons from Chicago: Rapid Response & Resistance

Key Insights by Guests Pooja & Berto Aguayo:

- **Patterns Observed:**

- Enforcement focused on Latino, immigrant-heavy neighborhoods; day labor locations (Home Depot, Lowe's)
- Schools and daycares, businesses have also seen enforcement activity
- Need for preemptive Know Your Rights canvassing and in-language outreach; step-by-step guides for response
- **Community Defense Tactics:**
 - Business corridor outreach and practical support to affected enterprises
 - School "walking buses" and patrols (e.g., armbands, whistling signals) for student safety and de-escalation
 - Elected officials' physical presence sometimes useful in de-escalating/enforcing rights
- **Advocacy and Systems:**
 - Legal Protection Fund (city/state grants for family legal defense and assistance)
 - Homeowner/family support funds for those impacted
 - Use of congressional offices for "soft" intervention with federal agencies
 - Unified, standardized response protocols and resource guides
 - Creating public events to funnel support (e.g., business scavenger hunts, buyouts)
 - Push for local enforcement limits (e.g., barring ICE from courthouses via chief judge order)
- **Legal Coordination:**
 - Secure lists of vetted immigration and criminal defense attorneys (important due to capacity and risk of predatory practitioners)
 - Coalition meeting weekly, single hotline for triage/verification, central resource hub
 - Instructions for U.S. citizens to use their privilege (e.g., recording/deterring ICE activity)
 - Evidence collection for future legal actions
 - Messaging balance: Encourage caution, but avoid excessive fear in the absence of imminent risk

Action Items

- **Consolidate and Share Resource Lists:** All organizations to send their contact info and program literature to organizers for a centralized Google Drive; CharlotteEast.com for public access by midday tomorrow.
- **Expand Volunteer and Verifier Recruitment:**
 - FSN and ArtBridge actively seek additional volunteers (email, phone lines open)
 - Carolina Migrant Network hosting verifier training (Friday), Google Form for rapid response resource bank
 - Kate Cruz and mutual aid group accepting applications for the skills database
- **Update & Circulate Know Your Rights Materials:** Regular review and translation; ensure rapid distribution to communities and service providers.
- **Increase Emergency Fundraising:** ArtBridge and others to seek funding for emergency aid and to cover increased needs.
- **Coordinate School Support Plans:**
 - CMS updating ParentSquare announcements (English/Spanish)
 - Encourage school communities to ensure emergency contacts/pickup lists are current
 - Organize school escorts and attendance support as needed
- **Legal Preparation:**
 - Encourage families to consult attorneys, secure powers of attorney, prepare emergency contacts
 - Update legal referral lists; vet all participating local attorneys to prevent predatory practices
 - Encourage documentation of ICE activities for future legal coercion/protection
- **Public Messaging and Media Campaigns:** Communications teams to counter negative messaging, reduce panic, and promote accurate, actionable information
- **Ongoing Weekly Coordination:** Proposal for recurring coordination meetings, potentially hosted and facilitated by Charlotte East

Follow-up Points / Next Steps

- **Distribute Central Resource Folder Link:** By midday November 13, 2025, www.charlotteeast.com will host updates, resource directories, program contacts, and workshop links.
- **Regular Weekly Meetings:** To be confirmed; determine ongoing facilitator/host and communication structure.
- **Staff/Volunteer Training:**
 - International House, CMS, and others to conduct internal trainings on rights, ICE protocols, privacy/public space, and de-escalation
- **Monitor Legal and Policy Changes:** All partners to remain alert to federal/local developments that impact strategy and communication.
- **Outreach to Additional Elected Officials & Stakeholders:** Intent to keep the broader policy community informed and engaged.
- **Implementation of Chicago Recommendations:** Begin adapting successful rapid response and advocacy strategies locally (e.g., city-wide attorney lists, business walks, elected official involvement).
- **Next Community Education Events:** ArtBridge event on November 19, 2025; Carolina Migrant Network verifier training (Friday); Facebook Live (November 13) for public Q&A

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm with appreciation for strong turnout and urgency. All partners invited to share further resources and feedback with Greg (gregasuto@mail.com).



Transcript

Greg Asuto: Other aspect of this is the nonprofit and social services, what I like to call the helpers. We have a pretty organized and robust contact list of helpers. Many of you were responsible for getting the people here today. I thank you very much for doing that. But just an interactive list of the different agencies, be they in the legal space, immigration, refugee support space, youth space, consulate, educational space. So this is an asset, the houses of worship with which we're partners as well. And then this is. This is a big one

that I know we get asked a lot as the economic development wing, really of this geography is how do we help the businesses? Is there a list of businesses? How do we. How do we ensure that our money is going to the right place and helping people out during disruption? You know, whenever there are. There is an increased immigration enforcement and presence in our community. Sales, I mean, they struggle. And it's very critical for businesses that they still receive that same level of influx and customers to keep them afloat during difficult stretches, particularly if they're prolonged stretches that we don't know how long they're gonna last for. So what we have done is gone through in each one of what we call our commercial nodes. So you can see if you're familiar with the east side. Like, we have an east way specific node. We have the central avenue node. That specific specifically starts with Manolo's and ends at Eastland. And we have altogether 11 of these different commercial clusters. What we have done is gone through and on each one identified the businesses that we believe are going to be, would be disproportionately impacted by a significant extended federal law enforcement presence in our community. So there isn't a master list. You've got to go on the interactive map and find these resources yourselves. But we have gone through and really tried to identify the partners, the businesses that we feel are going to be in consistent need of support. You know, not just one off supports. And these are not all just restaurants. Some of these are professional services, some of these are hair salons, some of these are tiendas, bookstores. So we really have the gamut of businesses listed and wanted to ensure that the community has this. I'll put it in the chat once I pass it over to Jose. But also we're willing to help other communities and other geographies across Charlotte kind of compile a similar asset map. So with that said, I am going ahead to kick it over to. I believe it is Jose and Alba. I'm not sure which one of you are on the call, but I'm going to go ahead and kick it to the Latin American Coalition.

Jose: Thank you so much Greg for this gathering. So, so timely and I appreciate the time. Try to make it brief, gives everyone the opportunity to, to participate. I'm going to share quickly my screen to make it easier to share a quick graphic and economy. Let me share my screen right here. Okay. Hopefully you can, you can see that. So like people said, this is not our first rodeo. So in the past, throughout the 25 years of the coalition, you know, we have faced different challenges. This one is unique in many aspects and everyone knows that. So we have re established our family support network. At one time it was called the Family Defense Network, which is our family support network. And the idea is to make the community know that this is available, especially right now, people who are interested in supporting and being part of this or looking for a way to make a difference. And so put here in the graphic to try to make it as easy as possible to understand the, the dynamics of what this is about. We're just trying to take the assets that the organization has in the partnerships and collaborations that have established in order to make a

difference. And so the challenge right now that we have is, is you know, the aggressive enforcement deportation program that's gaining traction across the country. And now we seem to be a target, a stronger target. While acknowledging that there's also more limitations and more challenges with programs that were established in the past to protect migrants and refugees, which includes the, you know, trying to remove daca, tps, humanitarian paroles and other options that the family has, the families traditionally has had, has had till now, including making the citizenship process more difficult, which many of you know we have an immigration legal center and we're finding more barriers. Part of the challenge is the fear tactics, their tactics to force self deportation which causes legal, social and economic insecurity in our families causing emotional trauma and fear of families separation. And what that means, what, what would that mean for our families? The goal of this program is to build a community based support network, continue to advocate for a comprehensive immigration reform. We can't give up on that and then protect the dignity of families, particularly migrant families. In this case the strategy is to provide preventative, reactive and follow up resources to families. Some of those have already been active with partners and collaborators and in some roles we support, in some roles we leave. And also utilizing tools to help stabilize the family core when there's someone that's removed from the family and reunification if merited, if the family are trying to get back together and stay Together.

Interjection speaker / clarifier (possibly a technical interjection, not a main speaker):

The.

Jose: Timeline for this, you know, the part, the preventative part, which is here is something that many organizations have been doing and doing a great job. That is power of attorney workshops, know your rights workshops, and of course the advocacy piece that comes with this. From the coalition part, you know, we're doing more one on ones versus workshop settings. So you know, you know, to get so much publicity out and to protect our families. The reactive part or the support part, which we have by December of 2025. But I think, you know, trying to get this activated as quickly as possible is the, is having the phone line, the coalition phone line activated, which we have already. And we already this morning established an internal system as well as have the family support network groups active. And the support groups are the community based groups that focus on assisting the family on that particular challenge. For example, food insecurity is one of those and mental health supports is the other one. As far as the. Is the target audience, you know, who we can help or part of this affected individuals, professionals, nonprofits, faith groups, businesses, government agencies in the audience, the target audience that we're supporting. Our families directly affected by this. As far as, you know, like everything, we have to acknowledge that we do have some obstacles to overcome.

Part of it is that, you know, we don't have sufficient volunteers. We have limited capacity with us. That's what we hope the community would jump in. Very limited options, legal options for people right now. Very limited options for local and or prolonged legal services because the options for people in detention or deportation are very limited right now. Lack of financial resources to support the families in cases of rent, utility support or other support for these families. Organizational capacity, you know, we have a limited capacity. Most organizations are, especially recently with a lot of defunding that's been happening. Awareness of the progress which we can solve. Five, you know, thank you for allowing us to share this with the community. And we have a messaging in a communications campaign that we're launching as well to counteract the negative messaging that's happening. There's also an acknowledgment of coordination between organizations which, you know, we're trying to work closer together and I appreciate that and I think we make some progress with that. And there's obvious information that goes out as well as lack of empathy from some folk who think that this is the right thing to do kind of thing or are burned out. And finally collaborators and partners and people that we hope to continue to work with in Europe and there are many more, but just Hispanic Federation, Carolina Migrant Network, outreach For kids, ashlandc and others, government agencies, consulates are important as well. Mental health professionals, the legal advocacy center, faith groups and affinity groups that we can work with in our potential partners and co collaborators. And we're, you know, we're trying to focus in the shallow region even though we are aware that people may come from outside the region. So if you're interested in being part of this, there's an email address svcnylac.org Family Support Network and my LAC, if they're interested and you're able to volunteer, please email us. For the community, we're going to have that. It's already active, this FSN email address, but also the telephone of the Latin American Coalition where people can call and someone is being assigned to help us do a screening on the needs of the family so that then we can have an inventory of where the family has or don't have in their desires or their needs, whether it's to sterilize the family or unify the family. And what are the steps to move forward with that. So, you know, there will be something that will come out in the media later on today that we're preparing for our families. And for right now, just thank you for allowing us to share this and if anyone's interested, like I said, please reach out to us. I appreciate that, Greg. Thank you.

Greg Asuto: Thank you so much. Jose, will you. I put the FSN email in the chat. Will you put the any other contact information or information, please?

Jose: Absolutely.

Greg Asuto: Thank you so much. Thank you. All right, we're going to go ahead and pivot to. We're right on schedule to Syl and the Arbridge team.

Syl: Hey, can you hear me? Good.

Greg Asuto: Yes.

Syl: Good afternoon, everybody. Thank you, Greg, for allowing us to use this time for such an important conversation. I don't have a slide, but I think I can kind of break down how I'm going to talk about outreach and what's happening so I can share about who we are and what we do, what we know. We are able to plan ahead in the next couple of weeks to respond to the news from yesterday. And lastly, how can people in the call support artwork? So for those of you who are not, you know, as familiar with the work that we do at artbridge, we are an organization that offers primarily after school programs for newly arrived refugee and immigrant kids. We have two sites, one of them, it's on the east side and the other one the southwest area of Charlotte. We focus specifically on kids that are newly arrived refugee, immigrant, asylum seeking kids, multilingual students, Whether they're new to the United States that have been here for a while or they were born in the United States to immigrant families. We provide, of course, academic support in English acquisition, but we also focus a lot on the mental health and the emotional health of the kids. So what we what we are planning to do based on the conversations that we've had with our staff, it's we're going to expand the access to therapists and play therapists that we are in our team to make sure that other community members and family members can access that resource. We're also going to increase the access to emergency funds. One of the things that we provide at outreach besides the after school programs and wraparound services to about 400 families that come from all over the world. And one of the services that we provide, it's emergency funds. And something that I wanted to share is compared to last year at this time of the year, we are releasing about three times the amount of emergency funding for families and we believe it's going to increase as families decide to stay indoors doors as it happened at the beginning of the year. So we're going to, we're working on securing more funds to be able to help families pay for rent and food and any other emergency that they may have during this time. We're also going to reach back out to the people that were helping us and our families with rights to the grocery store or medical appointments because families will most likely not want to drive and we're going to need help to sign up again that are able and willing to provide those rights to the grocery store as needed. So we were able to coordinate a few of those at the beginning of the school year and we can prepare to do those again. We're also going to continue to work closely, as Jose said, with our partners to expand access to to as many know your rights workshops as possible and just education understanding of what's available within the community. We do this through the Outreach program in the after school and wraparound services, but also at our offices called the Shaloh Home center on the east side of town where you know, we can see families and provide all sorts of

services as they walk in. Something else that we're able to do is provide training to service providers on equity focused trauma informed care. Specifically if people are working with kids to know what to do and what to say if a child is showing signs of anxiety or fear based off ice or whoever is going to be present in our neighborhoods. We can also offer that resource. And as far as how People can support outreach programs and kids and families. We have an event scheduled for November 19th to let people know about another issue that we're facing, which is federal funds being decreased potentially next summer. So we're going to be talking to people interested in how to support our bridge at our center on the east side on Wednesday the 19th. So I'm going to put my email on the chat in case anyone in the call would like to join that event and come learn about what is going on with our programs and how can people support, whether it's by volunteering or connecting us to pro bono services, I think that there's some community power that we can get from that. So I'm gonna put my information on the call, and any questions, I mean, please feel free to reach out. Thank you, Greg.

Greg Asuto: Thank you so much, Syl. Thank you. And what we are going to do is for all the presenters, if I'm going to compile all of your contacts and resources that you send me on a one pager and then use our website as the hosting page. Because traditionally, what we do with these monthly meetings is we send the minutes and the contacts to our distribution list. But we have about three times the the number of people on the call today than those who are on our distribution list. So for all the partners who are on the call, if you guys could just shoot me all the literature that you're presenting or will present, we'll have it turned around and up by tomorrow, and it'll be on Charlotte.com. so thank you so much, Sil. Thank you. And I believe is Jamila. Are you on the. Hey, welcome. I'm gonna kick it over to you.

Jamila Espinosa: Hi, how are you? Thank you all. I'm sorry, we're super busy in the office, so my time has been tight today. I'm Jamila Espinosa. For those that do not know me, I am a immigration attorney based here in Charlotte. I serve on the board of the Latin American Coalition as chair and on the board of Safe Alliance. So the information that I am here to share with you all are a little bit about the rights both for the immigrant community and for our allies. Seeing what's happened in Chicago, we want to avoid some of those situations in which we are put in precarious situations with ICE officials. So I'm going to, in the few times, a few minutes that I have, share some of that information with you all. So the basic thing, many of you all may already know this. What rights do migrants have in the United States? They have the same rights that we all do. And this is the information that you really should be sharing for those that you know, in particular in certain communities. The Charlotte east community that we know is likely, based on previous raids and locations that they target will be a likely source for them to target the right to

remain silent. Many believe that, you know, it's not that easy to do that, but we have seen time and time again that this is still proven to be the most effective, effective way. And when I say that, that is for everyone. Whether you have legal status in the United States, whether you're a U.S. citizen or you have no status. If we all preserve our right to remain silent, we are in a group setting and they're asking questions. If we all do the same thing, it is much harder for immigration officials to know what your legal status is. Although right, they can speculate and the Supreme Court has given them a little bit more leeway based on what we look like or where it is that we possibly may be. The reality is by just looking at us, you cannot determine what our legal status is. A US Citizen doesn't have to speak English. So if we all have the right to remain silent, we don't answer those questions. We really preserve the rights for everyone. It makes it much more difficult for them to decide who they're going to detain. And the burden is on them to determine whether we are a US Citizen or not, or we don't have lawful status in the United States. So you have that right. We ask that everyone I know sometimes people get nervous and they decide, well, I'm a US Citizen, so I'm just going to tell them that if we all exercise the same rights, we protect everyone in our community. The right to refuse a search, it's really important. And I've seen this time again, you know, they do not have to have warrants for public spaces. So I have seen situations when people are arguing with ISIS officials. They do they have a valid warrant for an individual. If unfortunately, there is a situation in which a migrant has provided certain information to immigration officials, like, no, I don't have lawful status in the United States. No, I don't have any documentation. That is all an ICE official would need to detain that individual because they have given them that information at that time, the ICE official would not need a warrant for that individual because they've provided that information. Settings in which they need a warrant, any type of entry into non public areas. So if you are a location or you have an organization and your doors are open to the public, they would be Able to go into normal public areas. We've talked about this before, ensuring that areas that are not open to the public have proper signage that goes as well for parking lots, if you have a close, closed parking lot, or you can put signage that says no trespassing, no loitering and you can ask them to please not be on your property public areas, they have the ability to do that. Most important, if you know migrants in your community, ask them to please speak with an attorney as soon as they can to make sure that they vet whether there is legal options. But more than anything, so that they are prepared in the event that they are detained by immigration officials, that they know what is to come and prepare their families. This is really, really important for individuals that are single parents. We are getting and we are starting to see more and more situations in which an individual, they're the sole provider for their family or they're the sole caretaker for a family. And those preparations haven't been made like emergency contact information. I know great organizations like Our Bridge, the Coalition, Comodad Collectiva

have all worked on ensuring people have power of attorneys or have made sure that their emergency contact information is updated with the school system. This is more the time than ever, especially with a cms, that families are making sure that those emergency contacts and who they want their children to be authorized, who can pick up their children from school, those are up to date more than ever. And that families know who is someone trustworthy that they can depend on as well as who are legal resources that are reliable in our community. So that is really important. As far as the issue with warrants, if they are attempting to come into your organization and it is a private area, those are those interactions where they have to have a warrant signed by a judge. We've talked about this in Know your Rights, that an order that is not signed by a judge is not valid. More than anything for our community is, you know, we do not want to have situations where people are being, you know, they're being helpful, but we have some fear. So I know that Comidad Collectiva has their ICE hotline. I'm not, you know, I missed the beginning. So they may have already shared that information. It's really, really, really imperative for our community before we share photographs, before we share anything in which we suspect that it is ICE that we run it by, you know, call the hotline and make sure they have already trained and vetted their volunteers that can spot whether this is ICE officials or which this is this law enforcement activity. Because there has been Situations in other states in which it's the sheriff's department or local law enforcement that's executing a warrant, and it can become a very dangerous situation for anyone. And so we would ask for first that you make sure that the information is vetted. If you've seen it with your own eyes, you can photograph it from a distance and take, you know, video from a distance. Then that would be information that we would want you to share. But already, I will say, even, you know, with appointments here, we already see the community is starting not to want to be out and about. They are fearful and they are deciding to stay home. So we want to ensure that they still continue to try to live their lives as much as they can. Right? They have to go to work, they have to take their children to school. And we don't want to cause alarm or fear in certain areas when it's unwarranted. So I would just, you know, ask that you please make sure that that information is accurate. For our allies, more than anything, the best way that you can support is to spread know your right information. It is also to ensure that, you know, if you do see, do see something occurring, do it from a safe distance. We don't want to have those encounters in which you yourself is now potentially being charged with obstruction of justice, even though we do know that many of those charges have not held up. We would not our members in our community to have to face that. So photograph things from a safe distance. You can yell out what their rights are and still support in many meaningful ways when you see something occurring, but do not, you know, try to actually physically restrain or ask people to, you know, obstruct themselves, right, to run or ask or induce someone to lie. I will be sharing on here. What is the ICE locator hotline? This is if

an individual has been detained by immigration, you can look them up on this ICE locator hotline. It is really important that you know that it does take a substantial amount of time sometimes. Charlotte, for example, does not have a detention facility. So if someone's detained here, they are taken to another facility, usually in Albemarle, eventually taken to Georgia or to other detention facilities. So it's not a rapid system. If the person's detained right now, it could be potentially be 24 hours or sometimes longer before they're on the hotline. You can find them, I'm sorry, on the locator. But that's some information that would be really helpful trying to locate someone. Again, we don't want to always Cause alarm if we don't know if the individual actually was taken by ice. Before sharing that information, you know, try to vet first whether the person could have been detained by local law enforcement officials. Could be in the hospital, hospital or things like that. That is pretty much the information that I have on the legal side. Many of the individuals that if they are detained again will not be facing judges here in the Charlotte court. They're typically moved to detention facilities and we will fight those cases based on who has jurisdiction over them. We do try to file if they are eligible for. For bond. We do try to file that as soon as possible to avoid them being moved again and having to file for bond again in that location. So hopefully I know that was a lot of information that I see some questions coming in. Did you want me to answer any questions or.

Jose: No, we'll.

Greg Asuto: We'll do a follow up. But thank you, Jamal. Thank you so much for your time, your resources and your information. If folks want to learn more or have some of the. Those follow up questions, what's the best way for them to get into contact or what. Where would you refer them?

Jamila Espinosa: Yeah, so I would absolutely refer them to Estefania's organization.

Syl: Right.

Jamila Espinosa: Comunidad Collectiva, the Latin American Coalition. There's a lot of other organizations as far, there's the International House that also can provide information as far as reputable attorneys. A lot of you know, you know that a lot of organizations unfortunately have lawsuits funding. So a lot of the ones that were able to do free consultations are really limited. Be on the lookout. I know Hispanic Federation is doing power of attorney clinics. So that will be another area to look out for. I'll put my contact information in the chat.

Jose: Wonderful.

Greg Asuto: Thank you so much for your time. You can see this is who we have coming up with slate of agencies. Thank you all for hanging out with us, taking the time and thank you all for sharing information. We're going to go ahead and move to International House. I believe I saw Lauren and other team members on the call.

Syl: Can you hear me okay?

Councilmember Elect Massuera: Yeah.

Lauren Rogers: Hi everyone. My name is Lauren Rogers. I'm the director of community engagement over at International House. For those of you who are not familiar with our organization, we are another nonprofit here that works with the newcomer community. We provide resources through what we call the hug, our community resource center. We are open Monday through Thursday from 9 to 5. Folks do not need an appointment. We do take walk ins. We also have folks available to do community consultation over the phone. They do not need to speak English either. We do have multiple languages spoken on staff and we, all of our staff and interns are trained in working with interpreters and translation devices. So anyone who needs help looking for resources, getting connected to programs can come and visit our office anytime. We're open Monday through Thursday, 9 to 5, or call our front office. We do have an immigration legal clinic that can help with cases for work permit applications, legal permanent residency applications and renewals, naturalization applications. If you go to our website, visit the immigration page and you can see the full list of cases that we're able to take with or take on. Right now our clinic is closed for capacity. We are not expecting to be able to take on any new cases in 2025. We're hoping to be able to reopen in early January for intake cases. But if you go to our website, there is a form that folks can fill out letting us know what type of immigration service they're looking for and then we will reach out to folks as soon as we are open for appointments and we're able to start taking those cases again. So we are encouraging folks to still visit our website, still, you know, get us the information, let us know what type of service they're looking for so that we'll be able to follow back, you know, follow up with folks as we're able to. We do also have our adult education classes. Our English classes for 2026 are going to start registering December 1st. So please, you know, have that on your radar. We do our best at International House not to ever send folks away empty handed. So if someone comes to our office looking for a service that we can't provide in house, we do our best to get them connected with one of our fantastic community partners, partners to get them the service they're looking for. We also have a list of private attorneys who we know, trust and have worked with for many years. So if folks need help getting connected with the right private attorneys, we can help navigate some of those conversations as well. Internally, some things that we're doing around the office. We are retraining our staff on what to expect for, you know, various types of visitors. We are, you

know, revisiting some of our signage around the office to make sure it is very crystal clear, you know, which spaces are allocated as public spaces and which ones are specifically for clients, students, program participants. We're going to be doing a staff training next week to kind of revisit some of this stuff. Also getting into some role play scenarios, hopefully with some of our staff members to be able to practice what to Do. If we have any unwanted visitors who come by the office, we're going to be including our interns and any of our front office volunteers in that training as well, just to try to make sure that everyone is comfortable, prepared, knows what you know, our rights are as an organization to make sure that we can continue to maintain a safe, welcoming environment for the families that we serve. So I will put also put my email address and the International House website in the chat as well.

Greg Asuto: Thank you so much, Lauren. Thank you. Thank you. And you all are now over in Elizabeth, correct? Where's your offices now?

Lauren Rogers: We are over in the Elizabeth neighborhood right there at the intersection of 7th street and Hawthorne, across the street from that big Independence park next door to the Big Tree Restaurant.

Greg Asuto: Okay, wonderful. Thank you. Thank you. What I would also like to do as well, y', all, I did this earlier, earlier in the call. Thank you to all of our elected who joined us this afternoon. I know I see Council Member Mayfield, who put something in the comments. Thank you for joining. If you aren't elected, please ensure that you drop your name in the comments. I'm sorry, I'm trying to scroll through the list of 350, but don't want to miss anybody. But thank you all for being here. I would like to go ahead and pass it over to Stephanie or the team from Carolina Migrant Network.

Lauren Rogers: Hi, all.

Syl: Can you hear me?

Greg Asuto: Yes, we can. Hey, Marianne.

Lauren Rogers: Hi, I'm Marianne from Carolina Migrant Network. For those who are not familiar with us, we provide pro bono legal representation for folks who are in detention centers. And then you've also heard Jamila mentioned communal colectiva, which is our organizing side of cmn. She mentioned our hotline, which I had dropped a graphic in the chat. One of our.

Councilmember Elect Massuera: One of the things we hold is.

Lauren Rogers: An ICE hotline, where folks can call in suspicious activity in their neighborhoods and we'll send out train verifiers. So in that graphic, that'll be the number down at the bottom. The number on the top is actually what we just started, which is a mass text messaging system. Essentially, once something or activity is verified, typically we'll go on socials and send that out. But due to the nature of what may occur.

Councilmember Elect Massuera: A lot of things might.

Lauren Rogers: Happen on the same day. So the number that you see ending in 4996, that's the number to receive our notifications for verified activity. So if y' all want to go ahead and join on that, Juntar is the Spanish version. Join is the English version. And if you want to share that with community. Please, please feel free. Another thing that I'd like to share on what we're working on is a Mecklenburg county rapid response sheet. Essentially anyone who is able to help and provide resources to families who are affected that come to our organization. That way we know exactly where to send folks out to. And I can drop that Google form if y' all are able to help out in any way in the chat as well. And then one more thing I'd like to or actually two more things. One is we're gonna have a verifier training on Friday at 6pm in the Charlotte's Home center that will be to become a verifier. So if typically we are asking folks who you trust to join in and who want to do this, understandably some people don't want to be in the front line in that way. So I just want to make that known that we are hosting that on Friday and I will also add in the Google form to sign up for that. And then we are having a Facebook Live for community members to get a little bit more informed and essentially get updated on what we know tomorrow night via Facebook Live on our I think it's Carolina Micro Network if I'm not mistaken. But Stefania is on the call and she is going to talk a little bit about the Bond Network. If you have any questions please feel free to message me and I'll also provide my email. But Stefania, if you're ready you can go ahead.

Syl: Yeah, thanks Marianne.

Jamila Espinosa: A couple of things.

Syl: I also want to add that on our website like Jamila mentioned detainee locators, how you find individuals. We on our website have a page where you can get various genetic Know your Rights information. It has FAQs on how to contact your loved one if they are detained, for example, how to submit postage, how to do commissary things that will be needed if somebody is detained and are information that's not easy easily acceptable. I want to just note a couple of things. We have talked to Indivisible.

Jamila Espinosa: I think Rachel is here in Ava.

Syl: They have if you guys have probably seen the thrilling protests that are going.

Interjection speaker / clarifier (possibly a technical interjection, not a main speaker):

On around town.

Syl: Weekly, daily in some locations those folks are going to be trained to be verifiers so we can have more folks on the ground. And so if you want to also participate to be part of those protests, I'm sure we can get that link over to you all and those same folks will be funneled over to the verifier network. I also wanted to talk a Little bit about bond.

Lauren Rogers: You all know that we provide like.

Syl: A representation and in the past few months it's been getting more and more difficult to be able to represent people who are detained.

Interjection speaker / clarifier (possibly a technical interjection, not a main speaker):

And I want to just share what.

Jamila Espinosa: We are able to do and what.

Syl: We're not able to do because I want folks to have as much realistic information about what's possible to begin with.

Interjection speaker / clarifier (possibly a technical interjection, not a main speaker): I just want to share that we're.

Syl: The only legal service provider doing removal defense for free in the Carolinas. And so that does mean that we're very stretch thin. And now bond is immigration bond. So it's a bond that is provided.

Interjection speaker / clarifier (possibly a technical interjection, not a main speaker):

That people can solicit if they're in immigration. Attention. It has not been significantly restricted to individuals.

Syl: And so we are exploring other legal.

Interjection speaker / clarifier (possibly a technical interjection, not a main speaker):

Avenues to submit federal habeas.

Syl: So if somebody needs legal representation, they are able to call our hotline. We will then transfer them to a.

Jamila Espinosa: Case worker who will then do an.

Syl: Intake and then determine, most likely provide a referral list and ask them if they are interested in continuing to fight their case. If that is the case, they will be added to a list and it is a first come, first serve scenario. And so we aren't able to guarantee.

Interjection speaker / clarifier (possibly a technical interjection, not a main speaker):

That we will get to people quickly.

Syl: Just because of demand, but they are able to be added on to that. I also want to note, and Jamila mentioned this already, it's really hard to find folks in the first 24, 48, 72 hours. And so we really encourage folks to really go and talk to trusted organizations that can provide trusted information for attorneys. We've seen in April earlier a lot of folks have moved quickly to find legal representations and were victims of predatory attorneys. So really want to encourage you all to work with community members that are within your networks to ensure that they are talking to reputable folks. That's all we have for you all and thank you so much for the space.

Greg Asuto: Thank you both. Thank you, thank you. What we're going to do now, we are going to pivot to Hector Vaca with Action nc and again, I wanted to reiterate because people are jumping on and leaving partner agencies and presenters. I think the easiest way to distribute information to centralize it after the call. I know I sent all of you in an email that was BCC earlier today. I'm going to create a singular Google Drive folder and then create subfolders for all of your information. If you could maybe just drop stuff in there. I think that's probably the easiest, easiest way to distribute and then we can just distribute that master link to the to the Google Drive folder. So that'll be coming after the call. Thank you. All right, Hector, thank you for joining us.

Hector Vaca: Good afternoon everybody. And thank you Charlize, for putting this together. Really, this is amazing. So Action at Sea. First off, I'm the Immigrant Justice Director for Action at Sea. We are a statewide community organizing group, grassroots community organizing group. What we do is we help people to stand up for themselves, to elevate community voices. We don't offer services. What we do is we offer empowerment. So what we work with people to form committees and work on the issues that are important to people. Examples have been the campaign we ran several years ago, the corporate backers of hate. Where we wanted commitment from bank of America, Wells Fargo and Truist, formerly SunTrust, to no longer finance the private prisons that immigrants are sent to. And we work with multiple groups to stop anti immigrant legislation in North Carolina. We also work on other than immigrant justice issues, housing issues. We have a committee for seniors, a committee for women of color call Rage. The point is we bring people together in the community to work on the issues that are important to them. Because often people feel unheard. No one has ever cared enough to ask them

what their opinions are. So we help people to get involved based on how they feel and what they want to see change in their community. Some of the stuff that we're working on currently we are. Most of the groups that are on here today are. We've all formed a coalition of organizations that are working together based on our specialties. Some people, some organizations offer services, others offer other things like organizing like we do base building in order to, in order to work together so we can have a more well rounded movement and actually win for our community and also organize the resistance to whatever might be happening to our community. Together with the Central Labor Council, ActionSC has also convened a coalition of nonprofit organizations between the unions, the immigrant justice movement as well as other movements in order to have a more unified movement and also bring people who aren't normally in the immigrant justice space together to support the immigrant justice space. This also includes indivisible as well as other groups. You might have seen the great work all of us have done together with the two no Kings, they rallies as well as the march that happened on Central Avenue, support of immigrants. So what we're putting together for right now as Action NC is we're going to be working on community Know your Rights workshops. We'll be working with local attorneys on Know your Rights workshops so that people Understand their rights, whether regardless of your immigration status, as well as if you are a US Citizen. We will be working with different attorneys on power of attorney, power of attorney clinics in order for people to fill out their information in case anything happens. We're also convening creators here in Charlotte, artists and creatives because often the artist community wants to get together and express itself. And we're seeing that this might be a good opportunity for them to come together and express with purpose. So we're convening artists and creators to come together as well as working on pushing our elected officials, whether it be the locals in city council or otherwise, far as the governor, to commit to supporting our community. Because it's one thing to state that you are supportive, it's another thing to take action and actively be supportive. So we're working on those kinds of things right now. We're part of a national networks that work on immigrant justice issues, including fair immigration reform movement. So we have a lot of stuff coming up this year and next year, including a celebration of International Migrants Day. So we'll be using that as an opportunity to hold. To hold corporations that collaborate with eyes accountable. So in the end, if you would like to get involved and want to be engaged in supporting your community and actually working on the meso and the macro level to change the system and do something about it, just let us know and we're there for you. Once again, we're collaborating with other groups, like many of the groups that are here today, on the other services people might need while we're working to change policies and enact policies to support the Evergrande community as well as others.

Greg Asuto: Hector, thank you so much. Can you drop your contact in the chat? Yes, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. And I do got to know Yalls offices are off at Galilee Ministry, correct? That's like your home base for X.

Hector Vaca: Yes. We are now in the Galilee Center. Easiest way to find this. We're literally next door to CMPD on Central Avenue.

Greg Asuto: Wonderful. Thank you.

Berto Aguayo: Thank you.

Greg Asuto: Yeah, we're gonna have a. Sorry, Kate, we're gonna have a quick scheduling change briefly. I'm gonna move something around. I'm sorry. Sorry, Kate. We're gonna have. Board member Liz Monterey needed to share an update regarding cms and I want to make sure that we get that information out asap. So, Liz, are you. Are you with us?

Liz Monterey Duvall: Yes, I am. Can you hear me?

Greg Asuto: Make sure Liz is on the call.

Jose: Otherwise, if you're still on here, let's.

Greg Asuto: Be raise your hand and I'll spotlight you, but I can't find you in my search. She might be in her eyet, so we might have to pivot back. Liz. She says she's on mute.

Liz Monterey Duvall: There we go. I was like, no, don't pivot. Don't pivot.

Greg Asuto: Thank you.

Liz Monterey Duvall: Thank you, Greg. Hi, everyone. I'm Liz Monterey Duvall. I serve you on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education. If you don't know me, I am a daughter of immigrants. First and foremost, I'm a Latina and a representative of this community. I'll be providing an update on cms. I will say that the board chair, Stephanie Sneed, has given me an update to share with you all. She could not be here today. She had a presentation. But I want to share this information. I want to make sure that we're all on the same page and not spreading misinformation. It's really important that we're working with the school district. I invite criticism, but I do not invite slander or misinformation. I would hope that anybody on this call would reach out before we're attacking public schools. It. It's just. It's really important that we're all on the same. On the same page. So I'm going to share with you some facts and, and I'm also going to share this resource so that Greg can pass it along to everyone so that we all have the facts of what the situation is in regards to public schools and cms. I will tell you what we're going to do right now is three things right away. So right away, we are working on messaging to share with CMS families. Basically, we're

going to be very clear. We're going to. We're going to make them aware of the enforcement action. We're going to remind and recommunicate our procedures that we have communicated several times internally and externally. But we're going to reinforce that messaging, and then we're also going to have counseling services for our students and for. For our schools. Are we going to do this perfectly? I don't know, guys. We're reacting quickly. If you're. If you are all confused as to what's happening, so are we. But we are going to get this messaging out. The chair said probably soon, probably today or tomorrow. But that messaging is going out and that's going into this app, guys. It's called Parents where. If you're not a parent in cms, it's an app called Parents where it goes to every single parent. It tells us what's happening. I have to check. We also send text messages. I can't confirm if we're going to be sending the text message, but ParentSquare will give a push notification and, and an email to parents and we'll make sure that it's bilingual and that messages is going to be in English and in Spanish. So also we have a website that has resources. I know it's not the perfect website. It doesn't have everything. People don't check that. But it's important to have it. It's symbolic. It represents that we, we are taking a stance. And I think it's that even the fact that it's there, it's really important and can, if you have any feedback on how we can improve it, tell me. But don't criticize, like, criticize us, but like, you know, like, let's let it be constructive feedback because I'm always open to that. All right, so let me tell you guys really quick. So there's been chatter around protected areas and public areas. Jamila was talking about that before. I'm not going to get into the nuance on that, but I just want to be very clear. The CMS has never invited, welcomed or asked ICE to come to our schools. And, and no school district has control over federal policies or laws. I hope that you all know that. But we did not ask for this. We are not inviting ice. If they come to the school and they are not allowed to be there, we will ask them to leave. We have the jurisdiction to do that. They cannot linger on our private property. There are some nuances on what public. What private. Bottom line is they can't hang there. They gotta go board, you know, so, yeah, we'll be providing counseling. As Jamila said, they have to have assigned judicial warrant and it needs to be verified by our general counsel. We're not telling principals to interpret laws. None of that. They need to call our general counsel. If ICE comes, they need to, they need to wait away from everything in the public area, out of. Out of the schools and depending on what that warrant says is what the next step is. But we are. But we and, and every school should have clear instruction. If you hear of a school that doesn't have clear instruction, email me so we can make sure that they have the right tools that they need. What else can I say? Yeah, the other thing that we're focusing on that I need help with the community learning loss and attendance. I'm afraid that kids are not going to want to go to school. Right. It's a scary moment. I'm Working with the Charlotte east progressive moms on figuring out ways to support families. I don't know yet how this is going to manifest. I'm

open to ideas, but the, the core of the idea is like, how can we support families taking them to school? We have seen in Boston and Chicago how like literally our allies are standing on the front lines, taking, taking the kids to school, standing at the stop signs, all that good stuff. I'm not saying that we're going to get to that point. Hopefully they never even come. No, we, we won't be doing that. We have no. So, okay, so what was I going to say? Any questions that you guys have, just email me. But we have to be very careful with how we message and, and what we're messaging. You have to remember that not all, everybody in the schools are pro immigration. And I know that's, that stings, but there's a lot of bad actors. So we have to be strategic. However, we are going to inform the parents and we're going to make sure that our staff has the right procedures and everything that we can control.

Councilmember Elect Massuera: We will.

Liz Monterey Duvall: Let me see if there's anything else. I don't know if I left anything out, but yeah, like learning loss is a big thing. We want to make sure if anyone that can reach out to help organize this transportation thing if, if it go, if things go south. I live on the east side, so I'm happy to, to lend my car. But anyway, it's really nice to see you all here and to my board, fellow board members that are here as well, it's very touching to, to have you here. I really appreciate the solidarity from the bottom of my heart. And to all the elected officials that are here and everybody that's here, thank you so much. Thank you, Greg.

Greg Asuto: Yeah, thank you so much, Liz. And any of those, anything, even if it's a press release or whatever the resource may be, just also I'll include you in the follow up so you can drop the resources in that correct file.

Liz Monterey Duvall: I'm gonna give, yeah, I'm gonna give everyone the exact resources so that we are all on the same page of what we're communicating. It will be really important. Thank you.

Greg Asuto: Thank you. Thank you, Kate. Y'.

Liz Monterey Duvall: All.

Greg Asuto: So we have 20 minutes left. We're still on, on good schedule. We want a hard cut off at, at 4:30. Again, to reiterate, I know I'm saying this multiple, multiple times. It's going to be difficult to add everybody in the, in the comment list, your emails to the distribution. The best way that we're going to do distribution is the partners on the call and anybody else who wants to add other resources, please email me Greg Asuto mail.com But the partners on the call. I will send you a follow up email with a Google Drive link and

create folders for your individual visual organizations to add resources. And the link to that folder will be on www.charlevice.com by midday tomorrow. So thank you. I think that's the most centralized, quickest way because we're working against time here. So thank you all for that. Kate, thank you very much for your patience. Go ahead.

Lauren Rogers: All right.

Interjection speaker / clarifier (possibly a technical interjection, not a main speaker):

Hello everyone, My name is Kate Cruz. I'm a community organizer. I recently was field director on JD Mazwa campaign. Do a lot of different organizing things around the community. I am so back in September there was a need that had risen out of like the ICE verification group of some far right groups that had come to Charlotte. And so a bunch of us had mobilized, created a separate group chat. We just called it like crisis response on C Signal. And from there we started, you know, building a database and vetting people of, you know, what skills people had. And now this has sort of become and will become the hub of mutual aid. So if you, I guess a little bit more about myself. My, I grew up in the Christian nationalist movement and so I, you know, coming out of that and out of the far right and all these sorts of things, that's kind of the experience and that I'm bringing to this sort of recognition of how they operate and all of that sort of thing. But so this group chat, it's going to basically be like a like community bulletin board. Basically. If you have, you know, heard everything today and it still seems very overwhelming and you don't know, you know, like where exactly you fit in, that is where our group comes into play. I'm going to put my email in the chat and then it's also going to be sent over to Greg to be on the resources page because we will have a vetting process. Basically if you again, like I said, don't know exactly, you know, what, where you want to fit in, but you just know that you want to help, please reach out, we'll talk everything like that and then I'll get you added to the chat. You know, I envision there'll be some needs like you know, people that families need groceries delivered to them who are too scared to go out and run errands, people who need, you know, escorts to work and that sort of thing. And I would also encourage all the people who that have, you know, spoken today as well to feel free to reach out to me because there will be plenty of folks that have plenty of, you know, skill sets to offer and many other connections that can be brought into what each of you all are doing. And when you email me, just please include, yeah. Your name, sort of affiliations, you know, what groups, communities you're a part of. You can include maybe what neighborhood you're in, especially if you are in East Charlotte as well as, you know, any sort of skills. You know, we have plenty of people in, in the group currently who are, you know, trained in first aid or who are clergy and trained in de escalation, all that sort of thing. If you are, you know, a lot of the sort of.

Jamila Espinosa: I don't want.

Interjection speaker / clarifier (possibly a technical interjection, not a main speaker): To say boots on the ground, but like sort of ice verification and, and you know, patrols. If it comes to that, you know, it's going to be done through indivisible, through Carolina Migrant Network. But we're kind of here, you know, my group is kind of here to serve as sort of this sort of train station, I guess, and that'll connect everyone to all these different communities. So, yeah, I'm going to add my email into the chat. It will also. I'll also be sending it to Greg who will make that available and myself and a few other people on my team will be going through over the next few days vetting people. And yeah, I just wanted to take a moment as well to one, thank everyone who showed up today. Thank you so much to Greg as well for putting this together at such like, last minute and just to like, normalize how we're all feeling. I'm certainly very, you know, overwhelmed and anxious and like, this is all. So this is new to all of us, even though we've been sort of seeing this happen in so many other cities and it's okay to do it. Afraid it's okay to do it. Overwhelmed. And yeah, I hope to hear from some of you and hear from you all and work with you.

Greg Asuto: Thank you so much, Kate. I think that's a perfect segment when we talk about other cities. Councilmember Elect Massuera would like to give you the floor to introduce some of your guests that you've invited to join us from Chicago. Yeah, absolutely. Thank you so much, Greg. And thank you for. Thank you to everyone for being part of this conversation and this call at such a last minute. And it really demonstrates how fast the Eastside organizes and mobilizes and stands up for our community when other folks might not be able to. So I am very honored to introduce.

Councilmember Elect Massuera: Pooja and Berto from Chicago.

Greg Asuto: These are folks that I have met through my work and through different capacities and being in D.C. they've organized parts of the Resources Resistance movement in Chicago when dealing with the CBP on the ground there. And so without further ado, I want.

Councilmember Elect Massuera: To hand them the floor to share.

Greg Asuto: Best practices and lessons learned from what they've experienced on the ground in Chicago.

Councilmember Elect Massuera: Thanks everyone. I am a former East Charlotte resident and North Carolina is home for me. So I'm really honored to be here. I'll pass it on to Huberto in about five minutes to share some sort of legal framework. And I'm just going to go through trends and patterns of abductions in Chicago and some ideas we have and then some city and statewide advocacy ideas. I work for a progressive alderperson, city

council member in the City of Chicago and I'm the chief of staff for his committee on Immigrant Refugee Rights. So we may be differently resourced but all of these things can be applied and the advocacy ideas depending on where the energy is. So just to generally talk about where we've been seeing abductions and detentions in the city of Chicago, they have come hard for predominantly Latino neighborhoods, community neighborhoods in Chicago. And so while there has been sort of presence up and down the city, it's really important for the neighborhoods that have high immigrants to start doing Know your rights canvases to really start doing in language step by step. You know, if you are detained, if you see detentions, what do you do? So that everyone is sharing sort of a common language in those areas. We have also seen outside a lot of these big box stores, especially Home Depot in Chicago, but I know in LA and some other big cities, sort of Lowe's, any of those folks where day laborers are hanging out and looking for work. There have been pretty consistent presences. There has also been just generally outside of schools and residents, fewer, less targeted, but still again getting into those neighborhoods, doing door to door canvassing as much as you can, going door to door knocking on business corridors, especially where they're immigrant owned businesses or immigrant visited businesses. This is really important. Wanted to touch a little bit on recently there were some high profile detentions in Chicago in daycares. So there was a worker at a daycare who was sort of violently removed from her place of work. And so again businesses that may be supportive, even if they already are supportive and feel like they have a plan, it is really important that we, the residents Go to these businesses and go to these institutions and say, hey, you may feel overwhelmed in this moment. How can we support you? Or how can we make sure that you have a plan for your employees? And so I'll share through the organizers here some of those step by step guides that we have created we through our government office. And so I know there are some council members on here. You can do this through your government offices. We launch Know your Rights Canvassing, so we train neighbors and we launch Know your Rights Canvases. So people take a buddy and you just assign them some. Some area on a map and after a little bit of training, they go and talk to their businesses and neighbors about this. So this is a great thing that you can keep doing. You can also continue this forward and, and you know, make it a practice to discuss city services and the like. So we also are, are seeing some really amazing organizing in schools right now. So school patrols and walking buses. Just a recommendation to have, you know, similar, you know, unified city protocol around. You know, if you see ice in a vehicle and cruising around, but not detaining people, what do you do? If you see them detaining folks, what do you do? We in Chicago have adopted sort of a whistling protocol. And it might look different in each school, but, you know, outside the school that I coordinate, the elementary school that I coordinate, we all wear armbands where we have a very streamlined onboarding process

for new neighbors who want to get on board. So just some of that documentation, I'm happy to share if it's useful to you all, but so that not every school group has to reinvent the wheel. It's really helpful for those documents to be shared and then, you know, your electives. In this moment, my, my boss is out here on these streets, right? An elected city council member. You can't. You want to make sure that some of these folks are out here witnessing what's going on. Having elected members on the ground sometimes does because they have, you know, certain privileges and visibility. It does de. Escalate a situation and it can lead to a situation where they're. They talk to the elected official. There was a mayor of a city in Illinois that I saw do some interaction that deescalated the situation. So just really encourage them to be out there. This is a situation that they should be. Feel empowered to be at some ideas, advocacy ideas. Right? What do city and state legislators have control over your budget? In Chicago, we have something called a legal protection fund. It's about a two and a half million dollar three Million fund that goes to organizations so that they can show up in court and assist. Some cities have also created homeowner assistance funds and just general funding for families who have been impacted in family separation. So these are ways that counselors and electives can use their budgets. Inter jurisdictional inquiries. So we put together a guide that said, hey, if someone is detained, you can go to your Congress member who can do a soft congressional inquiry, right? So not all Congress members may want to help you, but I'm sure through the sort of elected representatives that you know who can help you, you can identify one congressional representative who can make all those inquiries. So again, I'll share those documents, but have a really good sort of chain standardized operating procedure of who you amplify and escalate to once something has happened. Electives can also lead business walks. We know that people are going to, you know, pause their regular routines and many immigrant owned businesses may see a decline in, you know, business and money that they're able to recuperate. So you know, really encouraging people from other communities to go and spend money in these locations. So we've done business walks, we've done scavenger hunts, we have, we've had organized cyclists buy out tamalos and street vendors. So all of these are, are ideas that you can use in your community too. And then enforcing the local laws. You know, I'm not sure where Charlotte is in the mix right now, but there are some conversations in the policy arena about how do we actually prevent and enforce local laws that we pass around, you know, say speed limits and having correct license plates and not switching license plate. So I'll put that in the chat as well. But some, some legal strategies and I'll pass it on to Beth right now. Some strategies that we're seeing in Chicago are that we might not be doing active enforcement right now, but we may be collecting evidence so that we can have legal cases in the future. And so it's important for everyone to know where to send all the documentation to. So with that, I'll pass it on to Berto.

Berto Aguayo: Thank you, Pooja. Thank you, JD and thank you everyone for being here. My name is Berto Aguayo. I am an attorney here in Chicago, born and raised in the south side. And here I help lead the Hispanic Lawyers association of Illinois Rapid Response Network. And so we're a group of about 70 attorneys that all from different practices. Maybe about 20% of us do immigration law and a lot of us do a lot of other practice areas. And so I think one of the things that we've learned in Chicago is that first and foremost it was helpful for us to develop a list of private immigration attorneys because we know that organizations and non profits are not going to be able to serve everyone. And I'm going to put a list of what we put together here in Chicago.

Liz Monterey Duvall: I don't want to be negative, just realistic.

Councilmember Elect Massuera: But the Chicago. So that list is a list of.

Berto Aguayo: About 20 plus immigration attorneys here in Chicago than within kind of our local bar association.

Liz Monterey Duvall: There are some lessons to take.

Lauren Rogers: Network of trust.

Jose: People vouch for each other.

Berto Aguayo: And they were added to this because we know that during these times that vouching and vetting system is crucial to make sure that our people are served by people that not only do immigration law, but that also will be served responsibly. And so that's one number two, another thing that we did was, and I think you're already doing it, just convening a coalition table of different folks. You know, you need to have electeds, nonprofits, but also the legal folks that on the table. And I would say this group meet weekly, check ins every single week just to figure out who's doing what in Chicago. We have one number that we, that's a hotline number that we all call to report immigration sightings and ICE verified sightings and that helps with triaging. So I don't know if I heard there was the Latin American Coalition, I don't know if that number exists. But having a single intake contact for those kind of sightings to then triage to the person that went before us, you know, that signal chat and maybe getting folks on the ground to verify sightings to then provide legal support I think would be key. Another thing that we, we've seen that's been helpful in Chicago is having. Yes, Betsy, in addition to the better list of attorneys for immigration, what we've also seen a need for is work. We've worked with the National Lawyers Guild and with other the federal Criminal Defense, the public defender. Because a lot of folks will be, if you're blowing a whistle or if you're recording stuff, they are detaining U.S. citizens. Right. And so we're working with National Lawyers Guild to

provide those people rapid representation from folks that have federal criminal defense backgrounds. And another thing that would be helpful. Pooja talked about the trends of where we were seeing people were basically detaining people that fit. You know, yeah, they were Latino, but they also looked like if they worked a type of job that Latinos are typically associated with working. Right. Like they were going after people who were, who had landscaping trucks, people who had construction looking trucks. Right? Those were the people that they were going for. But they were also going into courthouses. They were going into courthouses, traffic court and just getting people. And so in Chicago, I'm going to put an article here on how we asked the chief judge to bar civil arrests at courthouses. And so here's an article about how we were able to do that. And I think that's something that elected officials and everyone here can ask for, right? Ask your county judge to bar civil arrest at courthouses. That's something that happened here in Chicago that I think could, could happen in other places. There's also a centralized place for immigration resources. There's many. But in Chicago, here's one place where we get all the immigration, where people get a lot of their immigration info. It's illinoisimmigrationinfo.org and I'm sharing it just for the sake of having, for you all to see what we're doing here. And so I also think that it's important, the messaging is important. What we've been saying here in Chicago is that, hey, if you're a US Citizen, you know, use your privilege to help those that can't, you know, that can't go out and recording everything. And that's been key for us. So encouraging people to pop out their phones and record so that we can have evidence of all these things, things that are happening. And so that, that way people can, if someone is taken, people can at least their family can at least be notified, right? Their family can at least know that their person was taken or not. Because sometimes some people, some family members, if there's no video or something that their, that their family member was taken, no one will ever know, right? And people are wondering what happened to my uncle or what happened to my sibling. And then we also, on the other hand, encouraging people, almost like with Kobe, to the degree that you can, if you're vulnerable, stay home, right? And don't come out because it's gonna, they cast a wide net and they just look after anyone and who looks Latino, who looks like they're having a working class job. And it's not, it's not targeted. It's not, it's just random. It's just, you know, they go out to Home Depot like Pooja said. They go out to different places, places and people are at risk in that way. And so hopefully that's been helpful, the information that I provided. But to summarize, you know, create A list of vetted immigration attorneys. Create a list of federal criminal defense attorneys who can help people that are blowing their whistle and alerting people. Create a centralized way of, a centralized way of getting this information, like one number that every single person memorizes and that number have that available, like 24 hours to then help deploy rapid response teams on the ground to verify sightings and then to help with the legal support. And then, you know, hopefully

this, this coalition is meeting, you know, weekly to figure out what's working and what's not because trends change.

Greg Asuto: Thank you. Thank you both so much for your experiences, for your work and for shedding some light on, on how things have been going and how we can prepare. We are at time, y', all, and here's what I want to do. First and foremost is truly and sincerely thank every single individual who came either as a participant or somebody shared information today. I'm trying to get an order of operations here. So we're going to get the names from the list. We're going to sit through, send it to a partner to get some of the emails that were sent to ensure that you guys get direct emails with this information. So if you want to be on that list, sir, please go ahead and put your email in the chat. We are going to have somebody that does that and filters through that. We are still going to Put tomorrow, midday, charlotte.com There will be a resource, file and folder. And then I will work with the presenters today to figure out if it's best for Charlotte east to continue to host these meetings. I'm more than willing to do that to have that weekly touch point be with us via our platform, same time, same way. It's absolutely something that I think is critical that we continue these conversations on a weekly basis. So thank you all again.

Hector Vaca: Thank you.

Greg Asuto: Thank you. Thank you so much. Y' all. Please stay safe and please reach out if you have any, any other needs or concerns. Thank you all very.

Jamila Espinosa: It.