

# The Delray Democrat

## Florida Wants to Turn Local Police into Federal ICE Agents<sup>1</sup>

*June Sandra Neal*

Ten organizations have filed a lawsuit opposing the State of Florida's new law that requires local police to act as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. The groups were represented by the Southern Poverty Law Center, The Community Justice Project and The Immigration Clinic of the University of Miami School of Law.

SPL argues that "Entangling ICE and local law enforcement leads to racial profiling, civil rights violations, isolation of immigrant communities, and unjust deportations" and that turning local police into federal immigration agents erodes any trust the police have established with the community. It would make immigrants fearful of reporting crises such as emergency help or crime. They further argue that the law conflicts with the state's Sanctuary law, federal law and the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

It is critical that these groups do not stand alone. Our governor, state representatives and newspaper editors must hear from us.

- Florida Immigrant Coalition, [floridaimmigrant.org](http://floridaimmigrant.org)
- Community Justice Project Florida [communityjusticeproject.com](http://communityjusticeproject.com)
- Amnesty International USA Orlando – [amnestyorlando.org](http://amnestyorlando.org)
- Florida Immigrant Coalition, Farmworker Association of Florida – [floridaimmigrant.org/placemarks/farm-workers-association-of-florida-fwaf/](http://floridaimmigrant.org/placemarks/farm-workers-association-of-florida-fwaf/)
- WeCount!
- Americans for Immigrant Justice
- Hope Community Center
- QLatinx
- Westminster Presbyterian United Church
- The Guatemalan-Maya Center, Inc.
- Family Action Network Movement
- City of South Miami
- Southern Poverty Law Center Florida
- Immigration Clinic of the University of Miami School of Law

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, August 2019, p. 6.

