



URBAN UNDERGROUND

May 20, 2010

Dear members of the Common Council:

This letter is to make a strong statement of support for Alderman Witkowiak's resolution which calls on the Common Council to support the national boycott of Arizona's SB 1070 until this discriminatory law is repealed.

As a city that represents the largest and most diverse ethnic community in the State of Wisconsin, we share a common history that upholds the values and rights achieved through the civil rights movement. One of these is the establishment of laws that protect individuals from racial profiling and differential treatment based on someone's physical appearance. SB 1070 is a direct threat to this protection, encouraging racial profiling of Latinos and people of color, undermining civil rights by requiring everyone to carry documents proving their legal status or face potential arrest and detention, and criminalizing the immigrant community.

We believe the City of Milwaukee should take this affirmative step as many other cities and Counties have done, including Boston, El Paso County, Oakland, San Diego, and San Francisco, among others.

We need to join the national chorus of civil rights organizations, religious leaders, athletes, and politicians in the condemnation of what represents a major roll back in the gains of the civil rights movement in this country, the undermining of police and community relations, and an abuse of power. We stand with our immigrant brothers and sisters in calling for federal action to pass immigration reform this year.

Sixty-five thousand people marched on May 1, 2010 in Milwaukee to take a stand against Arizona's SB 1070. As residents of Milwaukee, we are counting on you to make a strong statement

National Arizona boycotts have proven to be effective in the past, as in the 1992 boycott that forced the Arizona state legislature to recognize Martin Luther King Day as a national holiday.

We urge you to take this historic step forward in restoring the public trust that similar legislation will not be tolerated in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Sharlen Moore
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CITY OF MILWAUKEE
JUN -3 PM 4:35
RONALD D. LEONHART
CITY CLERK