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**Comprehensive Change - Not One-Time Funding - Needed to Truly Support Fairfax County Immigrant Families and Community Members**

For Release April 11, 2019 -- Fairfax, Virginia -- The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is considering one-time funding for legal representation for county residents in deportation proceedings. Fairfax for All, a coalition of grassroots, civil rights, immigrant rights, and faith-based organizations dedicated to building sanctuary in Fairfax County, continues its call to Chairman Sharon Bulova, the Board of Supervisors, Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, and other officials to end the county's voluntary collaboration with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that furthers the criminalization, incarceration, and deportation of many Fairfax County family and community members.

The inequities of due process in the legal system are compounded in immigration cases where individuals in deportation proceedings do not have access to no-cost legal counsel if they are unable to hire a private attorney. Having legal representation dramatically increases the likelihood that an individual will have a hearing, be released from detention, and be granted relief from deportation (<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/access-counsel-immigration-court>).

Fairfax County contributes to the detention and deportation of its residents and visitors through the county government's chosen policies and practices that allow (and in some cases require) voluntary collaboration with ICE or taking a person's immigration status into consideration.

"Funding legal representation for residents in deportation proceedings without enacting a policy that ends the county's voluntary collaboration with ICE is putting a bandaid on a wound that the county Board of Supervisors and Sheriff Kincaid make worse every day as they continue to put more people into the arrest-to-deportation pipeline," says Elizabeth Baires, a member of La ColectiVA.

In late 2017, attorneys working in concert with the Fairfax for All coalition drafted the Ordinance to Protect Equal Justice for All. Key provisions of the Ordinance to Protect Equal Justice for All would create more equity for our immigrant neighbors and end Fairfax County's voluntary collaboration with ICE by:

1. prohibiting the county from involvement in civil immigration enforcement;
2. limiting the sharing and collecting of information;
3. expanding the list of documents that are acceptable to prove identity;
4. providing funding for legal representation for county residents in deportation proceedings

Despite sustained advocacy and widespread community support, Chairman Bulova and the Board of Supervisors have failed to introduce the Ordinance to Protect Equal Justice for All or any other policy changes that would end the county's voluntary collaboration with ICE.

“The county's current policies and voluntary collaboration with ICE are harming migrants residing in Fairfax County and, with every day that county leadership fails to act, people are living in fear and more county residents are detained,” says John Cano of Centreville Immigration Forum. Data published this week show that Fairfax County ranks 13 in the country for its compliance with voluntary detainer requests issued by ICE (<https://bluevirginia.us/2019/04/fairfax-county-should-do-more-to-protect-immigrant-communities>; view data directly at <http://bit.ly/detainer-compliance-rates>).

“While funding legal representation would be a commendable first step by the Board of Supervisors, real and lasting change will come by enacting a county-wide policy, like the Ordinance to Protect Equal Justice for All, that will end the county's voluntary collaboration with ICE,” says Mary Supley, a volunteer with the Immigration Issues Committee of Herndon-Reston Indivisible.

Fairfax for All is a coalition of grassroots, civil rights, immigrant rights, and faith-based organizations dedicated to building sanctuary in Fairfax County. We seek to end policies that render migrants and communities of color vulnerable to racial profiling, discrimination, detention, and deportation, including ending Fairfax County's voluntary cooperation and collaboration with federal immigration authorities. Member organizations of Fairfax for All include: CASA, Centreville Immigration Forum, DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network, Herndon-Reston Indivisible Immigration Issues Committee, La ColectiVA, NAKASEC, and Tenants and Workers United. For additional details about Fairfax for All, please visit [fairfaxforall.org](http://fairfaxforall.org).

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