



Arizona National Latino Peace Officers Association State Executive Board

State Executive Board

April 30, 2010

Lou Espindola
President

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Angel Carbajal
1st Vice-President

RE: Position of the National Latino Peace Officers Association, Arizona Chapter on SB1070

Johnny Cervantes
2nd Vice-President

Dear Governor Brewer:

Terri Avila
Secretary

The Arizona Chapter of the National Latino Peace Officers Association vehemently opposes the enactment of SB1070. This is *a draconian and racist* law that conveniently addresses a single class of people. The passing of this law will turn back decades of partnerships that have been created with the Hispanic community. It is quite obvious that the Immigration issue has gone unaddressed for quite some time and we understand that it is the responsibility of the Federal government to secure our borders. As a Law Enforcement Organization with National ties we hope that the training will include more than a color chart that will be used when making contact with persons of Latinos, after all this law is targeting solely Latinos. I hope we will be prepared for the onslaught of Civil Rights complaints that will initiate as a result of the misguided applications of this law.

Estella Cervantes
Correspondence
Secretary/Webmaster

The Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police opposed SB 1070 because the organization says the law would hobble law enforcement's ability to "fulfill their many responsibilities in a timely manner."

Cecilia Chavez
Historian

SB 1070 will require departments to make immigration enforcement a priority over violent crimes; drain already strained financial and manpower resources; force officers to target individuals based on their accent or attire, and result in costly lawsuits against municipalities for participating in racial profiling as well as failing to adequately enforce the law.

Tommy Gabriel
Sergeant-at-Arms

Gary Husk
Legal Counsel

This unwarranted legislation requires local law-enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration law to the fullest extent permitted by federal law, but, does not provide the additional funding or other resources needed.

Severiano Rodarte
Legal Counsel

SB 1070 states that officers must make a reasonable attempt to determine an individual's legal status "when practicable" if there is "reasonable suspicion" that he or she is in the U.S. illegally.

Ed Valenzuela
EEO Consultant

Police chiefs who opposed the bill have said these requirements will mean officers will have to make immigration enforcement their first priority over every other type of crime. This will further impact police departments already lacking the resources to do their basic job of fighting crime in their communities.

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Misguided supporters of the legislation incredibly say that by taking illegal immigrants off the streets, police will be preventing crimes they “might” commit. How do you determine who might commit a crime?

People will be more hesitant to report crimes, and that will create some very tough circumstances for local police in dealing with crime issues in areas heavily visited by people here from other countries.

One of NLPOA’s objectives is to advance its main goal of supporting the law enforcement community through greater communication and information sharing, and finds this legislation objectionable also for several reasons. Carving out a new area of law to enforce that has no relation to traditional crime fighting elements presents new challenges to face, in addition to the pressures of a tight economy.

Fighting criminals in the community will continue to be a priority regardless of their legal immigration status. To add the determination of legal presence in the United States expands the responsibility and workload to new heights.

In closing, a member of the National Board recently asked “if pulled over by the Police and asked for additional identification because of his law, which ID should he produce: FOP card, Police Commission card, retired Military ID card, Adjunct Community College ID Card, Disabled American Veteran Card, Veteran of Foreign Wars Card, or American Legion Card; after all this law will apply to him as well as other Latinos.”

Sincerely,

Lou Espindola
President