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Greater Minnesota Racial Justice Project Newsletter



ACLU

FOUNDATION

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
of MINNESOTA

- Order a *know your rights* card today!
- Have the ACLU speak at your organization.

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Contact us at
507.625.7966 or
amanjarrez@aclu-mn.org

Being in the community

Reaching out to the community of southern Minnesota will continue to be the focal point of the ACLU-MN's office in Mankato.

We want to ensure that the community is aware and informed about their civil rights and how we are able to help them should a problem arise.

We will continue to host *Know your rights* workshops around

southern Minnesota. These workshops consist of us giving out pamphlets, cards and materials. We bring in our staff attorney to provide helpful tips on what to do if you are stopped by law enforcement.

In July, we met with community members at the Mankato Islamic Center to discuss what the ACLU is able to do for them and tried to find out the problems their

community faces. More recently, we participated in the Nite-to-Unité event hosted in Northfield. This provided a great opportunity for the ACLU to get and out be seen in the community and be on hand to answer any questions they may have about the services we can provide. ■

Conozca sus derechos

Conozca sus derechos, or know your rights has been the focus of the ACLU-MN's office in southern Minnesota since it opened. Racial profiling and police issues are a common complaint the ACLU-MN receives so it is an important part of our work to be in the community education people about their rights.

Most recently the ACLU-MN has been at events in Rochester and Northfield talking to people about their rights and handing out

Know your rights cards.

Do you know what your rights are? If you would like a copy of our card, *what to do if you are stopped by law enforcement*, you can either download one from our website at www.aclu-mn.org, or contact our office and we can mail one to you.

If you would like a copy please send an email to education@aclu-mn.org with *Know your rights* in the subject and your address in the body or call

651-645-4097 ext 123 and leave a message with your name, address and how many cards you would like. They are available in English and Spanish. ■



How we can work together

The ACLU will continue to host workshops where there is a need.

From grocery stores, libraries, to the homes of community members, where our presence is requested, the ACLU will attend.

If your organization

would like one of our staff members present at an event or would like to have us table, we will gladly take the chance to work together.

We have previously worked with the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and Centro Campesino to name a few. For more

information regarding how we can set this up, please contact Angel at amanjarrez@aclu-mn.org or call 507.625.7966 ■



www.miacclu.org

"It is costing Minnesota hundreds of thousands of dollars to hold immigrants in jail for the federal government that is never paid back."



MiACLU

There is now a website dedicated to the work regarding the Latino community and the ACLU. For the latest news regarding the efforts of the ACLU and its fight against immigration, racial profiling and Latino rights, please check out www.miacclu.org

Check out the Minnesota tab for information regarding our state. ■

Tim Penny

On August 7th, our Staff Attorney and Development Director met with former US Congressman Tim Penny in his Owatonna office. Mr. Penny discussed networking and development ideas with us as well as giving suggestions about who we should work with in Southern Minnesota.

Costs

The ACLU-MN has been reviewing the costs of ICE holds throughout the state of Minnesota. ICE holds are not reimbursed so when a jail holds someone until ICE picks them up, that cost is passed onto MN taxpayers. So far, our office has reviewed 13 counties in MN and found that the cost of to taxpayers is over \$200,000 year.

The Universities

Our office currently has three interns. One that is from MSU that reports to our office and assist with court monitoring. The other two are from Gustavus Adolphus College (GAC) in St. Peter.

There the interns are helping restructure the ACLU chapter and hold events where staff will come and publicly speak regarding a topic that the students have an interest in. We again have students in the sociology

department doing a project for the ACLU-MN. This group will be surveying African-American residents of Mankato to get their opinion of law enforcement in Mankato and in the Mankato schools. ■



Jesus Mendoza

Banking while Brown

The ACLU-MN filed a lawsuit against the City of Gaylord and several other law enforcement entities for their arrest and interrogation of a Latino woman in Gaylord by Gaylord police officers.

Jesus Mendoza was a passenger in a car whose driver was wanted by Gaylord Police Department. When the police approached the driver and asked her to come with them to the police station, Jesus got out of the car to go to work. Instead of allowing her to go to work, she was taken into custody by

Sibley Deputy Marvin Doedin and not permitted to leave. Despite showing proper and legal identification and informing the officers that she didn't want to stay, Deputy Doedin prevented her from leaving, put her in the back seat of his squad car and drove her to police headquarters where she was interrogated.

Officers questioned her about her real name and identity, despite the fact that Jesus produced a valid ID. That was not enough and police instead drove to her house where they entered her bedroom

to look at her visa, passport and birth certificate. Only at that point did they let her go.

This unlawful arrest and treatment of Jesus shows the excessive policing of minorities in Gaylord. Police had no reason to think that Jesus had committed any crime and were only concerned about her immigration status, something outside the scope of their legal authority.

Mendoza-Sierra v. City of Gaylord, et al is currently pending in Minnesota District Court.