



GUADALUPAN MULTICULTURAL SERVICES



November 14, 2017

Councilor Lashunda Scales
Councilor Hunter Williams
Council President Valerie Abbott
Councilor William Parker
Councilor Darrell O’Quinn

Councilor Sheila Tyson
Council President Pro Tempore Jay Roberson, Jr.
Councilor Stephen W. Hoyt
Councilor John Hilliard
Mayor-Elect Randall Woodfin

Re: Fulfilling the Promise to Make Birmingham a Sanctuary City

Dear City Councilors and Mayor-Elect Woodfin,

We the undersigned directors of civil rights, social services, and interfaith organizations that serve the Birmingham community call on you to **swiftly approve the Sanctuary City Ordinance** that was introduced at City Council on June 13th. The communities we serve and represent—immigrants, refugees, LGBTQ people, low-income people of color—are under attack. We need sanctuary *now*—not next month, or next year. We urge you to act immediately to fulfill the promise to make Birmingham a sanctuary city.

The proposed ordinance will provide **strong, concrete and lawful protections to some of our city’s most vulnerable residents**. It will ensure that city personnel and taxpayer resources are not coopted and misused for the purpose of enforcing federal civil immigration law. This policy will make our city safer and more prosperous, and lift up Birmingham as a beacon of progress and justice amid an increasingly hostile anti-immigrant, anti-refugee, and Islamophobic climate across the nation. We expect nothing less from our city, which served as a cradle of the civil rights movement during the last century. In the spirit of that righteous legacy, Birmingham must take bold steps to move our city into the 21st century by leading the way on this crucial human rights issue. **The ordinance does not conflict with federal or Alabama law and will not place Birmingham at risk of losing federal funding.**

The undersigned organizations collectively reach and serve many thousands of city and metro area residents who stand ready to work with you see our city become the best version of itself. *The time to act is now*. We call on the City Council to bring the Sanctuary City Ordinance to a vote **before the end of the year**. We call on all Councilors to approve the ordinance, and for the Mayor to sign it into law and carry out its immediate, full and faithful implementation.

Sincerely,

Jessica Vosburgh, Executive Director
Adelante Alabama Worker Center

Saraí Portillo, Executive Director
Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Randall Marshall, Executive Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama

Kathie M. Hiers, Chief Executive Officer
AIDS Alabama

Cara McClure
Black Lives Matter-Birmingham Chapter

Khaula Hadeed, Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations of Alabama

Daniel Schwartz, Executive Director
Faith in Action Alabama

Scott Douglas, Executive Director
Greater Birmingham Ministries

Sister Gabriela Ramirez, Executive Director
Guadalupan Multicultural Services “La Casita”

Benard Simelton, President
NAACP Alabama State Conference & Moral Movement Alabama

David Gespass, Convener
National Lawyers Guild-Alabama Chapter

Naomi Tsu, Deputy Legal Director
Southern Poverty Law Center