



For Immediate Release
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**CIVIL AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS DEFENDERS MARCH FOR SANCTUARY IN
DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM**

Demonstrators Call on City Council to Approve Sanctuary Ordinance

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. – Members of Birmingham’s diverse immigrant communities and their allies will march to City Hall this Saturday, July 1st to call on the City Council to fulfill its promise of strengthening local protections against federal overreach and unlawful profiling and detention for the city’s Latino, Muslim, and immigrant residents through a proposed sanctuary city ordinance. The event will be free and family-friendly, and include music, dancing, taco trucks, and testimonies from community members.

The march and the proposed sanctuary ordinance are supported by a coalition of community groups and prominent civil rights organizations, including Greater Birmingham Ministries, Alabama Coalition for Immigration Justice, Council on American-Islamic Relations of Alabama, Southern Poverty Law Center, Moral Movement Alabama, and NAACP of Alabama. The proposed ordinance was introduced at the City Council meeting on June 13, and supporters are calling on the Council to approve the ordinance within the next month.

Campaign organizer **Cesar Mata** says, “As immigrant residents of Birmingham, we want to dance and sing through the streets to show the city how much we love it. We are all part of what makes Birmingham great. When my friends and family members fear that going to court to pay a ticket, calling the police to report a crime, or even dropping their kids off at school could lead to their deportation, it tears apart the fabric of this city. We are marching this Saturday to carry forward the ongoing movement for civil rights in Birmingham. We need Sanctuary Now!”

Jessica Vosburgh, Executive Director of Adelante Alabama Worker Center, which has spearheaded the sanctuary campaign, says “The proposed sanctuary ordinance will promote public safety and civil rights in Birmingham, while complying with federal and state law. We call upon the Council to stand on the right side of history, and make good on the commitment to protect vulnerable Birmingham residents from the deeply misguided and unconstitutional tactics of an openly hostile federal administration.”

What: **March For Sanctuary!**
When: Saturday, July 1st, 10:00AM-1:30PM
Where: Gather at 10:00AM in Kelly Ingram Park
March 11:00AM-12:30PM (16th St N → 3rd Ave N → 20th St N)
Rally at City Hall/Linn Park 12:30-1:30PM

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For more information on the Birmingham Sanctuary City campaign, visit bit.ly/sanctuary4bham