

Dear Mayor Henriquez and city commissioners,

I've never been more proud of our city than I was last Monday when you rightfully voided the agreement that forced local law enforcement to racially profile and detain our community members. I thank you for your courage for doing the right thing. And yet, we must continue the course. You have the privilege and duty to vote on what not only will make us safer but on what is right.

Cities aren't required to join 287(g) agreements with ICE and entering this agreement opens up multiple problems all which were all clearly stated last week. In addition to taking valuable time and resources from officers doing their actual job it also leads to racial profiling and lack of due process both which have been costly for Monroe County in the past. In 2018 MCSO wrongfully detained and handed over US citizen Peter Brown to ICE. The lawsuit brought by SPLC and ACLU in 2018 cost the county – the taxpayers – hundreds of thousands of dollars. Do we want to be next?

Not only should we stay strong and not voluntarily sign the 287(g) agreement I encourage you to join South Miami's lawsuit against the state. Multiple organizations from around the state have offered their pro-bono services to help us fight against this massive unconstitutional overreach.

Furthermore, I urge you to express your support for extending TPS for Haitians. When I taught in Adult Education in 2011 the majority of my students were from Haiti escaping damage from the earthquake and again from the cholera epidemic. I run into them weekly as they are embedded in our diverse community. Currently, I teach ESOL to KWHS students and have many Haitian students that have escaped gang violence. They long to feel safe and included. Unfortunately, after all they've endured they are now scared to even attend summer school. We have a duty to support and protect them.

By staying strong we have an opportunity to truly show the state of Florida and the country what it means to actually BE "One Human Family."

Thank you,
Natalia Duke
Keys Immigrant Coalition