



City of Tacoma

Council Member Ryan N. Mello

February 23, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary of U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave. NW,
Washington, D.C. 20016

The Honorable Thomas Homan
Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St., SW,
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Kelly and Acting Director Homan,

It has come to our attention that that Daniel Ramirez, a recipient of the DACA program (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) is being held in custody in the Tacoma detention center. We, the undersigned, request his immediate release and furthermore are very interested in ensuring proper procedures were followed and if the federal administration is changing its policy on protecting DACA individuals. To our knowledge protection for childhood arrivals has not been withdrawn. Immigration & Customs Enforcement's (ICE) broad action in advance of an official directive coming from the White House, and the way these arrests were executed, has raised concerns about civil and human rights violations that may be taking place in our region – causing fear and deep concern for thousands of individuals and families.

Actions like these have caused extensive fear and uncertainty in our community, and we are concerned by the rash implementation of some of these policies.

Our understanding is that Mr. Ramirez passed the extensive vetting process to get DACA status, and at a minimum should be released so as to not cause additional emotional and financial harm to his family as he pursues his immigration case.

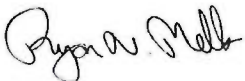
We have an extensive immigrant and refugee community in our City, and it is our obligation to work to provide them with a sense of security that they will not be detained and assure them that they will continue to be valued members of Tacoma. We will continue to work to protect due process and ensure immigrants and refugees are welcomed and celebrated.

We, the undersigned, request Mr. Ramirez's release and continued protection and request ICE and the federal administration will move swiftly to clear up the current uncertainty and fear caused by its application of the law. Specifically, we would like the following questions answered:

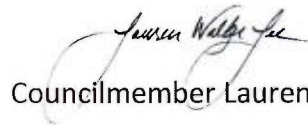
1. Has the federal administration changed the policy for DACA recipients?
2. Under what authority was Mr. Ramirez, an authorized DACA recipient, detained collaterally during the investigation of his father?
3. What is the current policy regarding contact with other immigrants encountered in the course of these immigration enforcement operations?

Thank you for your time and attention to this serious matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Councilmember Ryan Mello



Councilmember Lauren Walker



Councilmember Anders Ibsen



Councilmember Keith Blocker