

#1

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 3:26:24 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 3:27:48 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:23  
**IP Address:** 162.217.186.240

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Page 1

**Q1** Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: **George Blakemore**  
State: **IL**

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**Q2** Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Human Relations Committee 3/19/2019**  
**145p**

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**Q3** Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

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**Q4** What do you want to do? **ATTEND THE MEETING and SPEAK FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You may still add written comments below)**

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**Q5** Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

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## #2

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:08:35 PM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:10:00 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:24  
**IP Address:** 73.50.42.152

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Page 1

### Q1 Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Elvira Arellano  
**Organization (if any):** Familia Latina Unida  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60622

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**Q2** Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Human Relations Committee 3/19/2019  
145p**

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Resolution #19-1971

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**Q4** What do you want to do?

**ATTEND THE MEETING and SPEAK IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may still add written comments below)**

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**Q5** Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

My name is Elvira Arellano I support the resolution...I lived in sanctuary for a year and was deported in 2006 I was arrested at the airport shortly after 9-11. It was hard after 9-11 because we who work and have families were treated as terrorist and we had absolutely nothing to do with that. Since then we have never recuperated. I returned because my son Saul who was born here had to live with me in Mexico because I was mother and father to him. Many children today and then after their parents are deported are put in DCFS and then given to foster homes and adopted or defacto deported to countries that they don't fit in and are bullied or in Mexico or central America where they are victims of kidnapping for ransom or for human trafficking or for organs. I had to come back because we were threatened for supporting the immigrants who were fleeing from violence and passing through Mexico. For that my life and my family were threatened. I came in the first place because after the devaluation of the peso and the NAFTA many of the families who were farmers couldn't compete with the cheap corn that the US flooded our country with so we had to find other work. I went to the Maquiladoras the companies that this country opened in our country that only paid us less than \$10 a day so I came here. Imagine that corn was our main product what we use to make the tortilla we had to buy it from the US. All the companies closed here to go to Mexico and pay us \$8 dollars a day. So only the corporations made the money while leaving us exploited and here they took union jobs and put those workers unemployed and turned them into exploitation jobs.

My son Saul is in the university and a registered voter and we worked together on a few campaigns and our candidates all won. My 5 year old son and I and his father have applied for asylum.

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# #3

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:10:08 PM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:11:08 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:00:59  
**IP Address:** 73.50.42.152

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Page 1

## Q1 Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Cecilia Garcia  
**Organization (if any):** Familia Latina Unida  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60608

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**Q2** Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Human Relations Committee 3/19/2019  
145p**

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Resolution 19-1971

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I am in favor of the resolution because I don't want any more families and children to go through what we did. I would have never been involved in this struggle I thought I'm a US citizen I'll just apply to adjust for my husband. Wrong it changed long time ago. It doesn't work like that. I applied for my husband. Bill Clinton changed the law making it difficult for us to adjust for our families they have to be in the shadows until they visas are available. He was profiled while driving and the nightmare began and he was deported. Every time he attempts to return for a graduation of our kids or when one of us is sick he gets caught and the charges are worse. Its been 6 years of me working 2 and 3 jobs and DCFS calling me a negligent mother, because my kids broken hearted were depressed and wouldn't go to school. Please help us get our families back.

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# #4

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:11:12 PM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:12:59 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:47  
**IP Address:** 73.50.42.152

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Page 1

## Q1 Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Mahalea Velasco  
**Organization (if any):** Familia Latina Unida  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60608

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Resolution #19-1971

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**Q4** What do you want to do?

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3/19/2019 MEETINGS RECORD OF MEETING WITNESS COOK COUNTY and FOREST PRESERVE  
DISTRICT BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS

**Q5** Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Good Morning members of the committee on human relations,

MY NAME IS MAHALEA VELASCO I'M 11 YEARS OLD. I WAS 5 YEARS OLD WHEN MY FATHER WAS DEPORTED 6 YEARS AGO.

MY MOTHER AND MY 4 BROTHERS AND SISTERS WERE ALL BORN HERE IN CHICAGO. WE ARE ALL U.S. CITIZENS. MY DAD WAS DRIVING HOME FROM WORK WHEN HE WAS PROFILED AND STOPED BY THE POLICE. WITH IN 12 HOURS HE WAS IN DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS. JUST LIKE THAT MY DAD WAS DEPORTED. MY MOM WAS CRYING IN THE KITCHEN AND MY SISTERS WERE HUGGING HER AND I SAID WHAT'S HAPPENING. MOMMY SAID "DADDY'S GONE" I GOT SO SCARED. I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND. I FELT IT THAT NIGHT BECAUSE HE WOULD ALWAYS COME INTO OUR ROOM AFTER WE WERE IN BED TO KISS ME GOOD NIGHT. JUST WRITING THIS MAKES ME RELIVE IT AGAIN AND I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH I HAVE CRIED.

THEY DIDN'T CARE THAT HE HAD A WIFE AND KIDS WAITING FOR DADDY TO COME HOME. THAT HE WAS WHO SUPPORTED US. THEY DON'T CARE THAT MOMMY HAS TO WORK 2 JOBS TO SUPPORT US.

MY FATHER DIDN'T ABANDONED ME HE WAS KIDNAPPED BY ICE AND RACIST POLICE THEN DEPORTED BY THE BROKEN AND UNJUST SYSTEM THAT DIVIDES OUR FAMILIES EVERY DAY.

HE MISSED MY SISTERS AND BROTHERS GRADUATION. I FORGET SOMETIMES HOW HE LOOKS. I DREAM OF HIS HUGS AND KISSES AND THE TIMES WE WENT TO PLAY IN THE PARK AND WHEN HE WOULD TAKE US EVERYWHERE.

I MISS HIM AND WE ARE FIGHTING TO BRING HIM HOME BUT THE FIGHT IS MUCH BIGGER THAN JUST MY DAD.

WE NEED TO DEFEND THE BABIES AND CHILDREN BEING SEPERATED AT THE BORDER AND REUNITE THEM WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

WE NEED TO BRING OUR DEPORTED VETERANS BACK BECAUSE THEY FOUGHT FOR THIS COUNTRY AND THIS FLAG AND ITS NOT FAIR THAT THEY THROW THEM AWAY LIKE GARBADGE. WE NEED TO BRING MIGUEL PEREZ JR. AND THE OTHERS BACK HOME.

WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR ASHLEY WHO DIED IN KUWAIT FOR THIS COUNTRY AND NOW THEY ARE DEPORTING HER FATHER.

WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR THE 2 MILLION DREAMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR 300,000 WHO HAVE TPS WHO ARE SUPPOSE TO BE DEPORTED TOMORROW.

WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR ALL THE KIDS AND FAMILIES THAT ARE TERRORIZED EVERY DAY BY ICE

THIS PRESIDENT DOESN'T LIKE PEOPLE OF COLOR HE IS AND EVIL RACIST. SEPERATING FAMILIES IS A NAZI TRADITION.

SEPERATING FAMILIES IS WHAT WHITE SUPREMIST DID TO THE SLAVES, AND TO THE NATIVE AMERICANS.

DONALD TRUMP IS A NAZI. HE SAID MEXICANS ARE ANIMALS

WELL WE ARE NOT ANIMALS WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS THAT LOVE OUR FAMILIES

BUT IF I COULD BE AN ANIMAL I WOULD BE A BLACK PATHER FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE.

THE BIGGIST KILLER HERE IN THE USA AND IN THE WORLD IS NOT CANCER, NOT GUN VIOLENCE, NOT EVEN WAR...

ITS INEQUALITY.....ITS INEQUALITY!!!!!!

# #5

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:13:04 PM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:14:00 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:00:56  
**IP Address:** 73.50.42.152

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Page 1

## Q1 Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Francisca Lino  
**Organization (if any):** Familia Latina Unida  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60622

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**Q2** Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Human Relations Committee 3/19/2019  
145p**

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**Q3** Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Resolution #19-1971

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**Q4** What do you want to do?

**ATTEND THE MEETING and SPEAK IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may still add written comments below)**

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**Q5** Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

My name is Francisca Lino I am the mother of 6 U.S. Citizens and 3 U.S. Grandchildren. I support this resolution. My Husband Diego is also a US citizen. We are a family of eleven and I am the only one who is undocumented. 1999 I arrived to the U.S. to work leaving behind two small children. I met and fell in love and married my husband Diego. He had a small child a son from his previous marriage that he was raising alone. My husband Diego adopted my two children and by this time I was pregnant with my daughter Britzy. Diego sponsored me to adjust my status with a notary Public who submitted all the legal documents. Diego also adopted my 2 children we were reunited and with Britzy we became a family of 6. We were so happy and then we got the news that I was with child again but this time having twins. I received a notice for my appointment for my permanent residency status and was looking forward to the appointment to celebrate that I would get my legal status.

My babies came early and I went to the hospital and they were born premature. They were so small and weak and I was breast feeding them to help them get strong. My appointment for interview to adjust my status and the babies arrived only days apart. I had to leave them in the hospital to attend the interview.

My husband said we would be back quickly but that we couldn't miss the appointment. I confided in God that everything would be fine. When we arrived, I was called in to speak to the agent but they took me to another room and wouldn't let my husband be with me.

They asked me if I had ever been detained and I said yes when I attempted to come to the U.S. I was stopped and then the following day I tried again and I crossed. When the notary asked me this question I gave her the same answer but she checked the box no. Because of this discrepancy I was incarcerated for 28 days.

My twin babies in the hospital and my Britzy and other children at home with my mother in law. My husband got so upset he suffered a heart failure. I was released after a month to care for my babies but was being ordered deported. I had an atty that fought my case to the 7th circuit but lost. I went to my church and they got me another atty and congressman Gutierrez and then Senator Burriss wrote a private bill for me to stay with my children.

Under Obama I was not considered a threat or a priority and because I was a mother and wife of US citizens I was protected. That all ended with this president. I would faithfully every year check in with immigration to see if I posed any threat, and because I didn't I was given a workers permit and waited for permanent relief. Then President Trump was elected and when I went for my periodic routine check in, they didn't want my Pastor to accompany me or my family this was new and strange behavior and I started to panic. My Daughter Britzy started to cry and we were relieved when I was released to my attorney. I was already out of the building when my atty was called for me to return there had been a mistake. I was told to return in a month with a one way ticket and a suitcase with my belongings that did not go over 50lbs because my time was up and I was ordered to leave the country.

My husband and children became very upset and so did I. But my Britzy was so upset that she tried to commit suicide. Where I am from in Mexico there many reports of kidnapping and violence. I would not be safe much less my children who are US citizens. I can't leave them like this so I asked to take sanctuary in my church and they gave it to me. I see my family on the weekends which is not great but much better than being separated. I was ordered deported last August and on the 24th it will be a year. Saturday was my birthday and I was surrounded by my children and my grandchildren.

Periodically a white ICE van will park outside of the church, to remind me of the constant threat of walking outside of the church could lead to permanent separation of my family.

I want to thank the Mayor for suggesting to have the hearing in the church so I wouldn't have to take the risk to come here and share my story. His words of support and of comfort gave me hope. When the mayor hugged me I didn't want to let him go. Our families need this kind of support from all. Please tell him that I wish I could be there but that he knows my story and that he please take my story and the resolution to the council of mayors. Please help us to restore legislatively the protections our families need to stay together.

Ivanka trump said that they shouldn't separate children from their mothers at the border. Ivanka it's happening right here. Our children and family suffer the same trauma. We suffer right here. Ivanka I am a mother like you. Ivanka as a mother what would you have done in my place.

# #6

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:14:04 PM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:14:43 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:00:39  
**IP Address:** 73.50.42.152

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Page 1

## Q1 Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Doris Aguirre  
**Organization (if any):** Familia Latina Unida  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60608

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**Q2** Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

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145p**

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Resolution #19-1971

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**Q4** What do you want to do?

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My name is Doris Aguirre I am here with my family my husband Roberto and my two children Bladimir Caballero and Izthel Aguirre. I let Honduras 16 years ago. I was tired of watching my baby going to sleep hungry and waking up hungry. I passed through 3 borders carrying my baby Bladimir age 2. It was a dangerous and difficult journey but it was one we had to take to survive.

I identify with the families that arrived at the border they are fleeing extreme poverty and violence. Many are being killed and have witnessed neighbors and family members killed raped or tortured. The decision to run and take your children away from danger is a natural human reaction. They should never take the children away from their parents they are only causing more trauma and torture than they have already experienced. They are not the MS 13. They are god's children looking for refuge.

I was fortunate to finally reach the border of Texas and the border patrol saw how thin and tired and hungry we were from the weeks of traveling to finally arrive to the U.S. border and they allowed me to cross and gave me a court date. The paper was in English and I didn't know and I did not appear.

Later I met Roberto who is the love of my life and he took me and made my son his own we were married and later had Izthel. My husband is a US citizen I am undocumented and my son Bladimir is a dreamer. I have not been able to adjust my status and I am still under orders of deportation. My son future is also unsure because the President has also vowed to end DACA. Returning to Honduras is not an option for us. It would be like running into a burning building.

I have been here for so many years fighting this deportation because my lawyer and my church have done everything to stall the deportation. I'm afraid my time may run out and I will be forced to take sanctuary in my church as did Elvira before and Francisca now who lives in sanctuary. Elvira, Francisca and I pose no threat to homeland security we pay taxes and are good neighbors and hard workers. The country will be no better off if they rid themselves of the likes of us and destroy our families. We contribute and make America Better. It is clear that Mr. President believes making America great again means that it must be majority and controlled by Whites. These are dangerous times for the Latino mixed status family and the City of Chicago has always has taken a stand. We need you to spark the movement recommend to approve our resolution to keep our families together right here in Chicago and in the country.

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#7

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:14:47 PM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:16:01 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:13  
**IP Address:** 73.50.42.152

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Page 1

**Q1** Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Rosa Medina  
**Organization (if any):** Familia Latina Unida  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60608

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My name is Desiderio Medina and I am a U.S. Citizen and I married my wife Rosa and we had a son and I was adjusting my wife status when they said that she was unable to return to this country. I was distraught and didn't know what I would do. The life we made here together had been destroyed. I had to work and save and my son and I had to go back and forth to see her. My second child a daughter was born in Mexico. My daughter though born in Mexico is a citizen of the U.S. I couldn't go to Mexico often because it's expensive and my son was here in school. My son suffered without his mother I did all I could but we were a broken family, not by divorce or by death but by a broken system that doesn't recognize us as people or families.

Every month I sent her money to survive and get what she and my baby needed. She noticed when she was going into the bank that there were people inside the bank communicating with the known gang in the area. The Zeta's are a cartel that are known to use and kidnap persons but especially children to extort them for ransom. When my wife left the bank, they followed her and took my baby from her arms and told her if she didn't empty the account and give them the money they would kill her. My wife hysterical pleaded with them not to hurt our baby girl and she went and did what they said. She and my daughter were traumatized and I went to Lincoln Church and Pastora Emma said let's go bring them home. At that time there were 3 families from the church that were in the similar situation and she tried to get them all back but my wife and daughter were the only ones that were able to return. They kept my wife detained for months and I had my baby and she was traumatized without her mother.

We were at the border and the agents said you give your daughter to a family member or we take her into foster care. The agent took her from my wife and gave her to me. My daughter didn't want to come with me and the screaming and the crying of both my baby and my wife broke the hearts of all listening even the border patrol. They said it's our job we are sorry. Those tears and screams haunt us all because it happens every single day. This was under Obama administration which was much more companionate. We have an asylum case. The system is broken... Why does my wife and my family have to go thru this if I'm an American Citizen.

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#8

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:16:06 PM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:17:59 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:53  
**IP Address:** 73.50.42.152

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Page 1

**Q1** Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: **Luis Rafael**  
Organization (if any): **Familia Latina Unida**  
City/Town: **Chicago**  
State: **IL**  
ZIP: **60608**

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Resolution #19-1971

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My name is Luis Rafael this is my family we are a mixed status family. My parents are undocumented workers and these are my brothers and sisters they were all born here. This little guy is my son he is 3 years old, he was born here also. I am a dreamer. I'm in favor of the resolution because we deserve to stay together. I can't live without them and they need me.

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#9

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:18:02 PM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:20:08 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:05  
**IP Address:** 73.50.42.152

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Page 1

**Q1** Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Gustavo Salmeron  
**Organization (if any):** Familia Latina Unida  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60608

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**Q4** What do you want to do?

**ATTEND THE MEETING and SPEAK IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may still add written comments below)**

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**Q5** Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Dear Members of the Chicago City Council Committee of Human Relations my name is Gustavo Salmeron I am a US citizen and a public-school math teacher. I married my wife Marlene and we had 2 children both US citizens as well. My wife Marlene is not a criminal she is an amazing wife and mother. I filed and sponsored an application to adjust her status and she was denied and deported. We were separated for 8 long years. My teacher salary was not enough to support an apartment here and one in Mexico, so I had to take other work opportunities and worked long hours. My son stayed with me and we would go back to Mexico to be with Marlene when I could. We had our second child and because she was an infant had to stay in Mexico with her mother. This was economically, emotionally, difficult. I couldn't find any legal way to bring her and daughter home.

The town where my wife and daughter were living became extremely dangerous as people we know and neighbors were killed. I sent money every month so my wife and daughter could have the basic necessities. One day my wife was followed and the men tried to kidnap my baby girl. I didn't know where to go and what to do.

I went to the Lincoln United Church and Familia Latina Unida because I had heard that they could help me. They got an attorney and wrote up the case regarding attack and attempted kidnapping of my daughter. They went with me to the border and presented my case at the border my wife was detained for several hours but then was released we came back to Chicago together and we are applying for Asylum. We are extremely worried with the change in criteria under current administration.

Please help us keep our family together.

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# #10

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:31:50 PM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:32:24 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:00:34  
**IP Address:** 73.50.42.152

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Page 1

## Q1 Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Esperanza Perez  
**Organization (if any):** Familia Latina Unida  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60608

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**Q2** Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Human Relations Committee 3/19/2019  
145p**

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**Q3** Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Resolution #19-1971

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**Q4** What do you want to do?

**ATTEND THE MEETING and SPEAK IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may still add written comments below)**

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**Q5** Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

My name is Esperanza Perez and I am the mother of green card veteran Miguel Perez Jr. who was deported in March of 2018. My son served two tours of duty in Afghanistan while serving in the army. While he was there he was the victim of an attack and suffered a TBI, traumatic brain injury. He came back from war with this severe injury and also showed signs of PTSD. My husband and I worked to get him the care he needed at the VA but that was at a time when they were extremely disorganized and appointments were more than 6 months to a year apart. My son began to self medicate with drugs and alcohol and unfortunately was arrested and convicted of a non violent drug crime. My son served his prison sentence and it was there where he finally was able to see a doctor and get the combination of medicines he needs to treat his serious medical conditions. While in prison he rehabilitated himself and reformed his life. We did everything we could to fight his deportation but ICE deported him to Mexico and he now lives penniless and without his essential medications. My husband and daughters are all US citizens now. Our family is broken without my son. I want to encourage you to pass this resolution and to work with your constituents to call on Congress to pass legislation that will legalize all of our families and bring our son home.

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# #11

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:32:58 PM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:34:31 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:33  
**IP Address:** 73.50.42.152

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Page 1

## Q1 Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Emma Lozano  
**Organization (if any):** Familia Latina Unida  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60608

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**Q2** Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Human Relations Committee 3/19/2019  
145p**

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**Q3** Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Resolution #19-1971

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**Q4** What do you want to do?

**ATTEND THE MEETING and SPEAK IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may still add written comments below)**

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**Q5** Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Written statement will be submitted before Tuesday

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# #12

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, March 18, 2019 10:20:17 AM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, March 18, 2019 10:22:55 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:38  
**IP Address:** 50.196.214.41

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Page 1

## Q1 Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Rev Walter Coleman  
**Organization (if any):** Lincoln UMC  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60608

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**Q2** Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Human Relations Committee 3/19/2019 145p**

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Resolution #19-1971

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**Q4** What do you want to do?

**ATTEND THE MEETING and SPEAK IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may still add written comments below)**

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3/19/2019 MEETINGS RECORD OF MEETING WITNESS COOK COUNTY and FOREST PRESERVE  
DISTRICT BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS

We are rightfully focused on the immediate and ongoing crisis of as many as 3,000 children, separated from their mother or fathers. We are in fact reacting to a policy of closing the border to Central America through a public show of the torture of children. While the court ordered reunification of these children with their parents is unbelievably slow and perhaps purposefully incompetent, it will in a few terrible weeks be accomplished – at least for most of the children. As we in Chicago seek to reach a consensus on our response through this city council process, we should focus as well on the policies that underlie the current traumatic assault on children.

I serve as one of a team of pastors of congregations with 34 families with one or several children or parents now united with their families here through the process of seeking asylum. I want us to address the changes to this process which are being made, administratively and the consequences for families and children and for the character of the nation. I am concerned specifically on what these changes will mean, already mean, for the 34 family members of my congregation.

These changes represent the substance of what is happening at the border. We need to recognize first of all that most of the refugees from violence in Central America seek asylum here because they are part of families already living here. Closing the border to them is not only a violation of the human rights of refugees, it reflects a new attack on families of color by this administration, reversing fundamental and hard won national values.

“Groups” which formally qualified for asylum included those fleeing from domestic violence and those fleeing from cartel violence have been eliminated or severely restricted. In addition to criminalizing and incarcerating asylum applicants, Attorney General Sessions has issued instructions to disqualify these groups and has urged border patrol agents not to accept someone expressing credible fear for these reasons.

Members of my church who have been legally admitted to this country, have qualified to have demonstrated credible fear, and are now awaiting a court hearing on their application, are now living in a state of fear that they will be deported back to life threatening situations. We have cases in which individuals have escaped from kidnappings and torture and cases in which 12-year-old girls have been raped and beaten to keep her family members from testifying. We have cases where the reason given for credible fear was that the same threat made to a next-door neighbor ended in that neighbor’s murder.

I urge the board of commissioners, on behalf of Cook County, to urge the Congress to establish our former criteria for asylum in order to overrule Attorney General Sessions’ curtailment of those criteria, bringing them in line with international standards.

It is important that we take note that parents at the border are being coerced into giving up their claims to Asylum by separation from their children and offers to have their children returned to them.

I want to conclude with two observations that are often overlooked.

First, mothers and their children, unaccompanied minors, are not fleeing their own homes and communities to achieve the American dream. They are fleeing conditions that have been created or magnified by U.S. policies: interventions in their elections (as in Honduras), support of armed conflicts (as in El Salvador and Nicaragua) support of repressive dictatorships and economic policies that have crippled their economies.

We have called for a task force of local elected officials and civic organizations from the U.S., Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Haiti to be formed by the end of this year to review the conditions causing refugees to seek asylum and to propose solutions.

Finally, it has been our experience that those seeking asylum in the U.S. choose this country because they have families here. What is going on at the border is part of this administration’s effort to restrict family-based immigration and immigration of people of color - people from “s-hole countries”. The border policy that holds 3000 children in cages is part of a policy that has removed the parents of over 100,000 U.S. citizen or DACA eligible children from our neighborhoods this year. In my church on Sunday I looked into the eyes of a TPS mother facing removal through no fault of her own, facing the decision of what to do for her two U.S. citizen children. Those now targeted include TPS parents of over 300,000 children who are being summarily removed as we speak.

The hearing on that resolution will allow us to develop our city’s position on the separation of families both at the border and inside the country and, most importantly, will allow us to take a position on specific protections that the U.S. Congress which we elect this November can take to stop these separations.

A mother of six U.S. citizen children, a mother with no criminal involvement whatsoever, a worker, a great mother, a wonderful wife remains in sanctuary in my church so that she can at least give her children direction on the week-ends. Children have a human right to the love, support and guidance of a family. What God has put together, no man and no government should be allowed to put Asunder. Only a movement that rises from cities across the nation can stop this abomination. Thank You.

# #13

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, March 18, 2019 1:24:51 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, March 18, 2019 1:26:03 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:11  
**IP Address:** 50.196.214.41

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Page 1

## Q1 Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Antonio Mohamed  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60608

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**Q2** Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Human Relations Committee 3/19/2019 145p**

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**Q3** Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

Resolution #19-1971

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**Q4** What do you want to do?

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Will be provided in person

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# #14

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 9:46:19 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, March 19, 2019 9:46:57 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:00:37  
**IP Address:** 73.50.42.152

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Page 1

## Q1 Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Sarah Diaz  
**Organization (if any):** Familia Latina Unida  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60608

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**Q2** Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov). You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

**County Human Relations Committee 3/19/2019 145p**

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Resolution #19-1971

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**Q4** What do you want to do? **ATTEND THE MEETING and SPEAK IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may still add written comments below)**

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testimony will be given at hearing

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