



March 2017 – Volume 2

C-PAC CHAT

Caribbean Political Action Committee (C-PAC) monthly communication

NEW THINGS HAPPENING AT C-PAC IMMIGRATION UPDATE #2

Friends,

Have you checked out C-PAC's new website? Visit our website today and see all of our latest features! Click this [link](#) to browse and enjoy. You can:

- Download our most recent and past C-PAC Informers
- Check out C-PAC's historical timeline
- Read our latest blogs/opinion pieces
- Track our social media engagement
- See all upcoming events
- Stay informed and engaged

In an effort to be responsive to the anxiety around immigration matters C-PAC provides the following information to our Diaspora Members, supporters and friends. We will continue to update you with changes to immigration laws and policies so that you remain fully informed.

IMMIGRATION UPDATE #2

In the last two weeks a number of raids carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have caused anxiety and concern for immigrants in our communities. The stated purpose of the raids was to remove criminal aliens from our midst. However, the raids seem to have taken on a wider scope. On many occasions, they netted persons who are not criminal aliens. And many did not have final orders of deportation; rather, they were undocumented, or had overstayed their visas.

While it is true that unlawful aliens have always been subject to interdiction if caught in a dragnet, previously, only criminal aliens were specifically targeted. Others - particularly if they had US Citizen spouses or children - were of low priority. There have been many reports of persons being stopped and questioned by ICE regarding their immigration status. And there have been confirmed reports of an open-air raid outside a Walgreens in Baltimore and a raid outside a church in Centerville, Virginia.

ICE dislikes these actions being called "raids." They prefer the phrase "targeted enforcement actions." And they are seeking to refute claims of indiscriminate raids. They claim that such operations were planned long before president Trump issued his executive order. This however strains credulity. The increase in interdictions of the undocumented since president Trump's election is at a rate not seen in many years.

In response, several organizations engaged in efforts to allay the fears of the immigrant community by educating its members as to their rights under the law. For example, when confronted by an ICE officer one can invoke one's right to remain silent and to speak with a lawyer. Immigrants unlawfully present still have the full power of the due process and equal protection clauses of the US Constitution available to them.

My advice to the immigrant community is to remain calm, even as it appears that ICE is stepping up enforcement activities. ICS' priority still remains criminal aliens and those who have final orders of deportation. Seek legal advice from an immigration lawyer if you have questions; and know your rights under the law. Also, as I have cautioned before, beware of fake news of ICE raids. Several videos circulated on *WhatsApp* are simply untrue. The video of a supposed raid at New Carrollton Station seen on *WhatsApp* was actually a video of a police interdiction in a French-speaking country. Such reports only spread needless fear and anxiety.

Remember: Avoid fake news and internet stories that purport to inform in this area. Instead, consult the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (www.uscis.gov) and/or an immigration attorney for the most accurate and current information.

Jaye A. Lowe Esq. is an Immigration, Labor and Employment Attorney with over 25 of experience. She is a C-PAC founding patron and currently serves on the C-PAC Advisory Board. Contact Ms. Lowe at immigrationlawpractice@gmail.com.

CALL TO ACTION!

Here are some ways you can support C-PAC by staying engaged and inviting Caribbean Americans and friends of the Caribbean across the metropolitan area to get involved.

Know someone who needs to become a member of C-PAC? [Download our membership application](#) form and get folks plugged in! Membership is only \$50.00 and \$25.00 for students.

[Follow C-PAC on Twitter](#) @CPAC_DMV. We follow back!



Are you on Facebook? [Like our page](#) and invite your friends to like us too!



Already a member? Join a committee! Do you want to serve in Membership, Fundraising, Political Advisory or Outreach? Take your pick, bring your ideas and be ready to serve.

Keep in touch. Have an idea? Want to help plan or host a community forum? We're only an email away! Send us a message at cpac.dmv@gmail.com.



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STAY INFORMED AND BE ENGAGED!

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