

BE AWARE:

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Immigration Raids: #KnowYourRights

The news media has reported that during the second weekend in July, Federal will begin a nationwide effort to arrest immigrants who have been issued final deportation orders. The raids will be conducted in ten major cities to include Baltimore. And while the raids will focus mainly on Central American families that crossed the U.S.-Mexico border, Caribbean nationals will ultimately be caught up in this major sweep.

Baltimore. Mayor Jack Young said that he does not support the activity, and that "Immigrants who call Baltimore home should not live in fear of family separation and deportation, and I will continue to do all that is in my power so that all Baltimore residents, including immigrants, feel safe and welcome in our city." It is important that our members and supporters know their rights. As the threat of ICE raids brings fear to our communities, it is important that as C-PAC members and supporters, you know your rights!

The [#WeHaveRights coalition](#) has assembled information for different scenarios in multiple languages – including [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Haitian Kreyòl](#). Please share this information with concerned friends, families, and neighbors.

Here is basic guidance from the #WeHaveRights coalition:

If you are approached by ICE Agents or Police --

- You do NOT have to reveal your immigration status and have the right to remain silent.

If ICE agents come to your home --

- You do NOT have to open the door.
- Ask to see a search warrant through the window or for it to be slipped under the door.
- A deportation warrant is NOT the same as a search warrant and does NOT authorize ICE agents to enter the home without permission.
- You have the right to refuse ICE permission to enter your home if the agents do not present a search warrant signed by a judge.

If ICE enters without a valid warrant –

- You should ask for the agents' names and badge numbers.

If you are arrested or detained --

- You have the right to speak to a lawyer immediately.

- You have the right to remain silent and refuse to sign any documents without advice from an attorney.

Legislative Watch: D.C. Office on Caribbean Affairs

On Wednesday, June 19, 2019, the Washington, D.C. City Council Committee on Government Operations held a hearing on B23-021, legislation introduced by Ward Four Councilmember Brandon Todd to establish an Office on Caribbean Affairs.

You may watch the [hearing](#) online, and community members may [still contact Councilmembers](#) to express their support of the legislation.

Most witnesses highlighted that as volunteers the Washington, D.C. Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs (MACCCA) could not fulfill all the work necessary to serve the city's Caribbean-American community. In addition, testimony addressed -

- small business protection and development;
- improved community engagement and outreach;
- grants and funding to Caribbean organizations;
- study abroad and improved engagement with the Caribbean region;
- revitalizing D.C. Caribbean Carnival;
- improved support for Caribbean seniors;
- language and other cultural barriers that face Caribbean students;
- policing differences and treatment of Caribbean residents;
- mental health services stigma associated with care in the Caribbean community;
- alarming rates of Caribbean Washingtonians who lack health care coverage; and
- the necessity of strong budget and appropriate staff for the Office.

The final witness from the D.C. Government underscored the Mayor's support for the bill and need for the office. The Chairman also held a thoughtful conversation about MACCCA doing more work to understand the health needs of the Caribbean community and D.C. programs that cover the citizenship application fees for residents.

2020 Census Update

The Decennial Census is integral to determining elected representation and allocations of federal funding. It is important that every person residing in the United States participate in the counting process.

For the past year, there has been considerable confusion and concern with the announcement of the addition of a citizenship question on the short form. Originally, the Department of Commerce, which houses the Census Bureau, argued that it needed the citizenship information to help the Department of Justice better enforce the Voting Rights Act.

There were a number of lawsuits challenging the announcement. Advocates argued that including this question in the short form would lead to undercounting – especially in low-income, immigrant, and minority communities.

On June 27, 2019, the United States Supreme Court [ruled](#) that the citizenship question could not be included in the 2020 Decennial Census. Notably, the Court upheld Commerce's right to include a citizenship question although it recognized the harm and high probability of undercounting.

After considering different options to circumvent the decision, the White House finally confirmed that it will adhere to the decision, and it will not include the question on next year's Census. The executive order authorizes the collection of information that is already stored in federal agencies.

Washington, D.C. Statehood Hearing

The Committee on Oversight and Reform had planned to hold a hearing on [H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act](#) on July 24, 2019. Sponsored by Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC), this legislation would establish Washington, D.C. as a state with full elected representation in the United States Congress.

The hearing has been **postponed** however, due to the upcoming Mueller testimony during which is scheduled for July 24th. Officials have shared that it will now most likely be held in the fall.

The hearing, which is the first official congressional review of D.C.'s status in 25 years, is open to the public. Stay tuned; we will continue provide additional timely updates.