



Educating, advocating, ensuring access to justice.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Mary Studzinski, Executive Director

717-600-8099 x207 (office)

717-873-2131 (cell)

mstudzinski@pirclaw.org

January 24, 2017

The Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center Praises Mayor Bracey's Executive Order to promote safety and trust in our community

York, PA - The Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center commends Mayor Bracey for her Executive Order to protect the rights of all individuals in York. As Mayor Bracey states, "public safety... is... best achieved through the promotion of trust between the government and all City residents." PIRC understands well the importance of this trust as we work each day with immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. PIRC works with immigrant survivors to help them report the crimes that have been committed against them and to stabilize their immigration status. If immigrant survivors believed that local police would refer them to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) rather than work to remove perpetrators of violence from our communities, few survivors would step forward to report these crimes. When these crimes go unreported, public safety is compromised and the lives of survivors and their families could potentially be in danger. While PIRC recognizes the right of the federal government to enforce immigration laws, we strongly believe immigrant survivors, their children, and the community are best served when local law enforcement resources are not deployed to identify the immigration status of individuals. We believe that Mayor Bracey's Executive Order strikes the right balance of respect for both the community and the individual.

Located in York, Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1996 by the legal and community advocates of the Golden Venture refugees. PIRC serves its mission of equal access to justice by providing legal services to vulnerable immigrants within detention and in the community. PIRC provides legal services to immigrants in detention at the York County Prison and the Berks County Residential Center, focusing services in two major programs: the Legal Orientation Program and the Vulnerable Populations in Detention program. Within the community, PIRC's Immigrant Survivors Project provides legal services in a nine-county region to immigrant victims of

P.O. Box 20339, 112 Pleasant Acres Road, Suite I, York, PA 17402·Phone: 717-600-8099·Fax: 717-600-8044

domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other violent crime. Visit PIRC's website at www.pirclaw.org

###