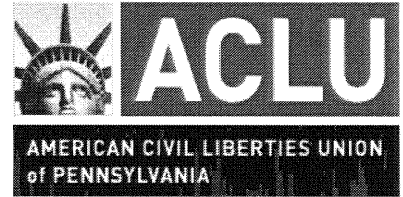




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The Community Justice Project

By Hand and Facsimile

August 15, 2006

Mr. Louis Barletta
Mayor, City of Hazleton
40 North Church Street
Hazleton, PA. 18201

Dear Mayor Barletta:

Today, a number of Hazleton residents, local businesses and community organizations filed a lawsuit against the City of Hazleton seeking to void the ordinance it recently passed entitled the "Illegal Immigration Relief Act Ordinance" ("Ordinance"). As our earlier letter of July 11, 2006, stated, we believe that the Ordinance will be found to violate the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions and various civil rights laws. As made clear by the Congressional Research Service's legal analysis report concerning the Ordinance already in your possession, it is quite likely that the courts will grant the relief plaintiffs seek.

The plaintiffs and their attorneys would prefer to resolve this matter amicably. We request that, at its August 15, 2006, meeting the City Council revoke its enactment of the Ordinance and agree to enter into a consent decree providing that it will not subsequently enact any ordinance that attempts to regulate immigration or is otherwise dependent upon a person's immigration status in its intentions, implementation or impact.

If the City agrees to resolve this matter in this fashion, the plaintiffs and their attorneys will agree not to apply for attorneys fees and expenses as well as all other relief to which the plaintiffs will be entitled.

We hope you will consider this offer seriously. If you do not accept it, we will move shortly after your August 15th Council meeting for preliminary relief seeking to enjoin its implementation.

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August 15, 2006 Letter to City of Hazleton and Mayor Louis Barletta

This Ordinance, if allowed to stand, will take Hazleton, and the towns that enact laws mimicking it, back to the worst days of America where certain kinds of people could not by law own property, run businesses nor live in certain places. Many of those affected by the overly broad ordinance are here legally and have lived, worked and worshiped in Hazleton for a long time. In desperation and fear, some of those residents have already decided to close their businesses, move out of Hazleton, or, simply hide as best they can behind closed doors.

On all of their behalf, we ask that you reconsider the enactment of this Ordinance.

Yours truly,



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Cc: All City Council Members
City Solicitor