

## **IMMIGRANTS WANT MAYOR TO COOL ICE'S HEAT**

Daily News (New York)

December 10, 2010 Friday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 30

**Length:** 253 words

**Byline:** By Erica Pearson and Adam Lisberg

### **Body**

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**IMMIGRANT** ADVOCATES yesterday demanded **Mayor** Bloomberg take a stand on a new program that forces cops to give Immigration and Customs Enforcement the fingerprints of anyone arrested.

"We hope that he would take a stand on this. It's supposed to be a sanctuary city," said Angela Fernandez, executive director of the Northern Manhattan Coalition for **Immigrant** Rights.

Bloomberg was noncommittal, though, saying there are times when city authorities must ask about immigration status.

"If there is a public safety reason to do it, if you get arrested," Bloomberg said.

ICE officials say the program, called Secure Communities, will flag and remove dangerous criminals who are here illegally.

Opponents say it will make **immigrants** afraid to go to police and could result in the deportation of domestic violence victims who are sometimes booked by cops after a dispute.

Secure Communities is being rolled out amid confusion about whether cities can opt out.

When the state signed on this spring, ICE assured officials that each county could decide if it would take part in the information exchange, according to a Division of Criminal Justice Services spokesman.

Homeland Security officials now say counties can't opt out completely; they can only delay implementing the program.

Advocates who **want** Gov. Paterson to cancel the state's agreement with ICE rallied in front of his office yesterday. They also sued the feds - and a judge has ordered ICE to turn over documents that would clarify whether cities or counties can opt out.

### **Classification**

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**Language:** ENGLISH

## IMMIGRANTS WANT MAYOR TO COOL ICE'S HEAT

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** IMMIGRATION (94%); CITY GOVERNMENT (90%); ARRESTS (90%); DEPORTATION (78%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2008 (78%); SANCTUARY SITES (78%); AGREEMENTS (76%); SUITS & CLAIMS (75%); DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (69%); NATIONAL SECURITY (52%)

**Organization:** US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (55%); PDO INFOSOURCES (55%)

**Person:** MICHAEL BLOOMBERG (78%)

**Geographic:** NEW YORK, NY, USA (90%)

**Load-Date:** December 10, 2010

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