



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2018

Mayor Lumumba Releases Statement on Department of Justice Letter Regarding Sanctuary Cities

The City of Jackson is firmly committed to promoting and securing safe communities. We unflinchingly uphold the principles of human rights for human beings. Racial profiling is patently illegal, violating the U.S. Constitution's principle assurance of equal protection under the law to all and freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures. Furthermore, racial profiling is ineffective. It alienates communities from law enforcement, disrupts community policing efforts, and causes law enforcement to forfeit credibility and trust among the people they are sworn to protect and serve. It is my belief that the action taken by the City of Jackson to enact an anti-racial profiling ordinance is not in violation of the law, but to the contrary, is an effort to undergird the long-standing ideals that are firmly cemented within our justice system.

We, the City of Jackson are in compliance with the Department of Justice and look forward to resolving this issue. In fact, the City of Jackson's Ordinance explains in great detail the spirit in which it was created: to protect everyone in Jackson whether legal or undocumented. Meaning our police officers will investigate, but also protect the rights of all individuals in our great City.

However, the alienation of communities from law enforcement through the use of racial profiling will only lead to perpetuation of unreported heinous, hateful and reprehensible crimes such as robbery, abuse, rape, sexual harassment, kidnapping and illegal detention, human trafficking, and forced labor to name a few. We as a city and as Jacksonians need to further identify ways and practices to build cultural bridges through honest conversations and other community building pathways that usher in harmony, cultural enrichment, multiculturalism and diversity.

Let us be reminded of our histories where marginalization, isolation and alienation of peoples along the lines of race, gender, identity, ethnicity, class, ability and other social markers have only been counter-productive.

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