



Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy

CAUSE

regional power in action

Santa Barbara Chapter Newsletter

Spring 2019

126 E. Haley St. #A12 Santa Barbara, CA 93103

(805) 850-3028

causenow.org

Just Cause Coming to Santa Barbara City Council

For over five years, CAUSE grassroots leaders have been speaking out against the evictions and rent hikes affecting the Latino community in Santa Barbara. Glaring data on recent demographic trends justifies these fears. Since 2011, the city has seen a 24% decline in the Latino population, a trend we see with no other city in our region. Displacement is ripping the social fabric of our community apart and we can't stand and watch as this continues to happen right in front of our eyes.

We are campaigning for a Just Cause Ordinance, which would prohibit a landlord to from evicting a tenant without a fair reason. With a 2 to 1 vote from the Ordinance Committee in March, we are excited to see the Just Cause Ordinance proposal go in front of the City Council next. However, they will be choosing between a Just Cause Ordinance and an ordinance proposed by the landlords that does not protect tenants.

The landlords will turn out strong, so we need your support at the meeting to let them know we need tenant protections now! Keep up to date with our social media to find out when the city council meeting will take place.

One of the hot spots of displacement has been South Voluntario Street in the lower Eastside. With tenants from the Voluntario Apartments continuing to take their case to City Council, they are one of many rental complexes that is facing unjust displacement due to evictions or rent increases. We have also been fighting for the home of the Javier Family, who is facing an unjust eviction, likely in response to installing a ramp for their son to access the home in a wheelchair. We need



The Javier Family hosting a Press Conference in front of City Hall

tenant protections to protect our communities that have historically been available for working-class Latino families in the Eastside and Westside of Santa Barbara.

Remember that we are still protected by the Governor's order banning rent increases of more than 10% until May 30th due to the fires and mudslides in our area. This means your rent cannot be raised 10% higher than it was before December 7th of 2017. The executive order is set to end soon, but the housing crisis is not. Our state legislators are now considering proposals to provide more permanent protections for renters. If you believe you are facing injustice as a tenant, or want to learn more and get involved in passing tenant protection laws in our city or state, contact Santa Barbara Organizer Alejandra Melgoza at (805) 850-3028.



Voluntario Apartment Tenants Speaking Out at Santa Barbara City Council



Marching Down Voluntario St. in Support of the Javier Family

CAUSE's Mission is to build grassroots power to realize social, economic and environmental justice for the people of the Central Coast region through policy research, leadership development, organizing, and advocacy.

CAUSE's Vision is that together we can create a global community where we all contribute to, and benefit from, a sustainable economy that is just, prosperous and environmentally healthy.

Supporting Immigrants to Thrive in the 805

We ended 2018 with our first **TRUTH Act forum**, a public hearing held by the county for more accountability and transparency on the collaboration between our Sheriff's Department and Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE). Dozens of supporters attended the meeting in Santa Maria, or spoke by video from Santa Barbara. In particular, our coalition spoke out against a practice the Sheriff's Department is using to get around the sanctuary state law. The new law limited the Sheriff from notifying ICE about people they are holding, but Sheriff Brown created a new online system allowing anyone, including ICE, to find out someone's release date. If you want to get involved in the next TRUTH Act Forum this year, visit www.805immigrant.org.



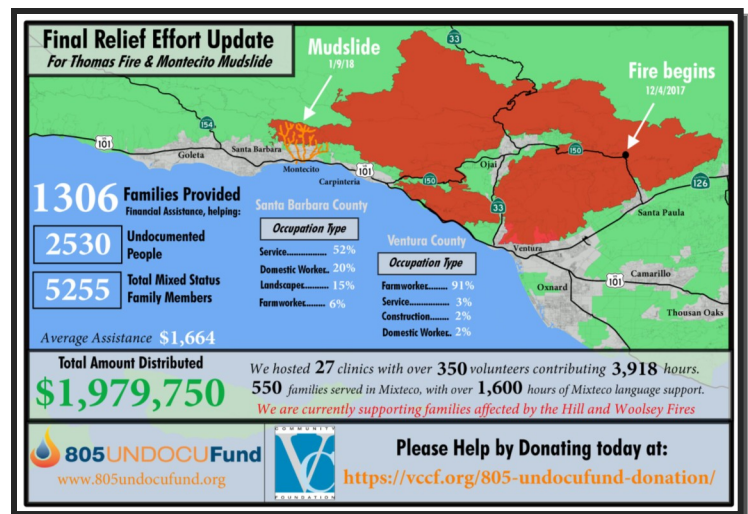
TRUTH Act Forum at Santa Barbara County Supervisors

There are plenty of other ways to get involved and support the Central Coast Immigrant Rights Coalition through www.805immigrant.org. First, we are excited to start our **805 Immigrant Rapid Response Network** to respond to ICE presence in our community and connect families to legal defense. If you would like to become a Community Rapid Responder, sign on at our website, and we will let you know of the next upcoming training.

Second, we have several actions for immigrant rights coming up, including a **May Day march** on Wednesday, May 1st, and **Immigrant Lobby Day** in Sacramento on Monday May 20th. If you would like to get involved in the planning, you can also sign up on our website and let us know!

805 Undocufund Update

We completed our 805 Undocufund Thomas Fire Relief effort, distributing about \$2 million in funds to 1,306 families impacted by the fire and mudslides but excluded from disaster aid because of their immigration status. Our relief clinics required over 350 volunteers contributing nearly 4,000 hours. The 805 Undocufund has now shifted to support families affected by the Woolsey Fire in Ventura County. To learn more, support or donate, visit www.805undocufund.org.



Congratulations to CAUSE Leader, now SBUSD School Board Member Rose Muñoz!



School Board Member Rose Munoz (Second from the right) with CAUSE Leaders and Mayor Cathy Murrillo

on the SBUSD School Board. Se puede? Si Se Puede!

For the first time in our history, a grassroots leader of CAUSE became an elected official! Congrats to Rose Muñoz for allowing us to grow with you, and taking on this important leadership role, especially as the only Latinx voice currently

The New Youth Committee in Santa Barbara

CAUSE is excited to expand our base of leaders to the youth in our community! Many of the issues we work on affect our youth as much as their parents. CAUSE will continue to build our core base of adults, and hope the new youth committee will provide a spark of energy and imagination on how to empower our community in Santa Barbara!

Get Involved:

Contact
Alejandra Melgoza
 (805) 850-3020
Alejandra@causenow.org

