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Phoenix Police Department Continues Racial Profiling for ICE

Phoenix, Arizona--According to a new report by Phoenix-based Puente Human Rights Movement, a data analysis of police stops between 2017 and 2019 shows that the Phoenix Police Department is in violation of Operations Order 4.48, an internal policy that regulates police practices and protocol in regards to immigration enforcement and cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The report, titled “Chinga la Polimigra” (“Chinga the Police and ICE”) finds that out of over 6,000 police calls to ICE over a two-year period, only 5% of individuals who were the subject of these calls were found to be undocumented. The Chinga la Polimigra report found that the PPD is operating a network of immigration enforcement -- particular officers and supervisors who work together to racially profile the community and deport undocumented people -- in violation of Operations Order 4.48. Puente’s report also proclaims that the PPD has not been taking appropriate record-keeping measures that are mandated by Operations Order 4.48 -- in many cases, police have failed to record the ethnicity of people who are stopped as well as the reason for stops. The report is available at www.puenteaz.org/chingapolimigra.

The release of the report comes alongside the launch of Puente’s accompanying campaign by the same name, Chinga la Polimigra, which is aiming to hold the Phoenix Police Department accountable for their flagrant violations of Operations Order 4.48 and ongoing systemic racial profiling of Phoenix residents. The Chinga la Polimigra campaign demands an investigation into Operations Order 4.48 and an end to the policy; that all contact between PPD and ICE is tracked and made publicly available; an end to the practice of prolonging police stops to verify immigration status; that PPD stop holding people for ICE processing; and that police officers and supervisors with an outstanding record of repeated contact with ICE and other 4.48 violations are fired. A list of the full campaign demands is available at www.puenteaz.org/chingapolimigra.

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