



### **Statement on the Arrest and Detention by ICE of Samuel Oliver Bruno**

On Friday 11/23, Samuel Oliver Bruno was tackled and detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Morrisville, NC. Samuel is an undocumented immigrant from Mexico who was granted “Stay of Removal.” Like many immigrant stories in our country Samuel first came to the US 22 years ago, making a home in Greenville, NC, where his wife and U.S-born son live. Samuel and his family had to return Mexico to take care of his sick father for a few years. However, Samuel’s wife has lupus, and she could not get adequate medical care for her deteriorating health in Mexico. The family decided to return to the U.S. in order for her to get the life-saving medical care she needed. Samuel was allowed to re-enter the country with a stay of removal after showing his wife’s medical records. Since then, Samuel has dutifully renewed his stay of removal every year, which he was granted until 2017. According to her doctors, Samuel’s wife requires continued medical treatment in the U.S. to survive, and without Samuel’s financial support, she could die. Samuel is well-loved in his community, and poses no security risk.

After nearly a year of living in sanctuary at City Well Church in Durham, NC, Samuel received an appointment for “Biometrics Collection for Deferred Action.” Those who accompanied Samuel stated that it was a tactic used as bait to lure Samuel from sanctuary. Undercover ICE agents posing as immigrants in line for biometrics appointments tackled Samuel and Daniel once they were in the building. A van then pulled up to the back door of the USCIS building and Samuel was forced into the van.

Samuel, his family, and the Durham community are mourning. NCCADV stands in solidarity with Samuel and his family. NCCADV also recognizes that actions like these by ICE further marginalize immigrant communities, making them more vulnerable to violence and less likely to seek or receive help. When people become fearful of law enforcement and the justice system, there is violence. When people cannot leave their homes without the threat of detainment or deportation, there is violence. Abusive partners, employers and others exploit immigration status as a means to maintain power and control over victims, endangering survivors and our communities. It is paramount that ICE officials refrain from enforcement activities at or aimed at luring people from sensitive locations like churches, courthouses, schools, medical treatment and health care facilities, and public demonstration, such as a march or rallies. These type of enforcement actions create an enormous chilling effect on immigrant survivors who will not feel safe seeking protection from the courts if they fear deportation.

**NCCADV STANDS WITH IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS!**