

AFFIDAVIT OF LUIZ CASANOVA

I, LUIZ CASANOVA, being duly sworn upon oath, do depose and declare that the following statements are true to the best of my knowledge.

Background

1. My name is Luiz Casanova and I am a Lieutenant in the New Haven Police Department. I have held this position since January of 2008. I am also the District Manager for Fair Haven, and have served in that capacity for three years. As District Manager, I am responsible for police resources and ensuring that community policing objectives are met.
2. Fair Haven is a neighborhood with a population of approximately 18,000 residents. The majority of residents are Latino. Fair Haven also has a large immigrant population, including immigrants without legal status: it is estimated that between 5,000-7,000 undocumented residents live in the neighborhood, out of an estimated 10,000-15,000 that are alleged to live in the city.
3. In my capacity as District Manager of Fair Haven, I interact with neighborhood residents, including immigrants who have been victims of crime. I work closely with community based organizations that provide direct assistance to neighborhood residents, including Centro San Jose, JUNTA for Progressive Action, Fair Haven Community Health Clinic and LEAP. I also interact on a regular basis with the priest and parishioners of the St. Rose of Lima Church, a Catholic Church with a large immigrant congregation.
4. From my years of working in the Fair Haven neighborhood in New Haven and interacting with residents, community leaders, fellow officers and immigrants, it is my opinion that immigrants, especially undocumented immigrants, are particularly vulnerable to crime. Making the names, addresses and dates of births a matter of public record will make them even more vulnerable because their personal information will be easily accessible.
5. Undocumented immigrants are singled out as victims of robberies because they often carry large amounts of cash with them. Until the Elm City Resident Card was created, they were often afraid to report crimes because they only had foreign identification papers and were afraid of being deported. Robberies targeting undocumented residents became so commonplace in Fair Haven that the victims began to be called "walking ATM's". While the New Haven Police Department does not keep crime statistics of victims based on their immigration status, it is my opinion based on my experience in working with the victims as well as that of the officers that I supervise that the majority of victims of robberies are undocumented immigrants. During the course of our investigation in these cases,

we would often hear from both the victim and the perpetrator that the victim was intentionally targeted because of his/her status as an undocumented immigrant and the belief that the victim would be too afraid to go to the police. If people knew their names, where they live and what they look like, it would be very easy for them to be identified as potential targets for victimization.

6. Some of the robberies in Fair Haven targeting immigrants have resulted in grave injury to the victims and even death. For example, in the Spring of 2005, there was a rash of vandalism and assaults in Fair Haven where immigrants were the sole victims. On October 19, 2006, Manuel Santiago, a Mexican immigrant, was stabbed to death during an attempted robbery after he had gone to a check cashing outlet to cash his check. In December of 2006, an immigrant was shot in the neck after leaving a corner store during an attempted robbery.
7. Violence against immigrants based solely on their status is commonplace. Over the last several years, we have had repeated incidents of teenagers riding around the neighborhood on bicycles looking for immigrants to harass and victimize. Six months ago, a Mexican immigrant was smashed on the head with a bottle on Blatchley Avenue after the perpetrator hurled racial and ethnic epithets at him. The victim was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for his injuries. Releasing the records of those who are ID card holders will make it easier for hate crimes to occur since potential targets of victimization could easily be identified and located.
8. I have supported the *Elm City Resident Card* program from its inception because I have always believed, based on my experience working with immigrants that the card would facilitate the work of law enforcement officers, particularly as it relates to the immigrant community. Since the launching of the resident card program, this has proven to be true. There was a time when we would not be able to establish an immigrant's identity because of his/her reluctance or inability to produce documentation; this is no longer the case. Immigrants are now less concerned about telling an officer of their victimization. The card has given the immigrant population a sense of belonging, and has helped the New Haven Police Department with the reporting and solving of crimes.
9. Partly as a result of the ID card as well as Police General 06-02, there has been a drop in crime in Fair Haven and an increase in reporting among the undocumented. Releasing the names and addresses and personal information of ID card applicants will likely result in a surge in crime, and things will go back to the way they were before, since immigrants would lose confidence in the police department and city government and would be less likely to cooperate.

10. It is my opinion that if the names, addresses and other personal information of applicants were to be made public, there would be a risk of harm to these persons, especially immigrants and Latinos.

Luiz Casanova

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ___ day of January, 2008.

Notary Public

Date Commission Expires: