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Press Release

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CONTACT: Gepsie Metellus
info@SantLa.org
305-573-4871

Sant La Denounces Arizona Anti-Immigration Law as Attack on Immigrants & Waste of Tax Dollars

(Miami, Florida) The Sant La, Haitian Neighborhood Center denounces Arizona's new anti-immigrant law, echoing the sentiments of immigrant advocacy groups around the country. "This policy is in essence making racial profiling legal, creating the opportunity for harassment of documented and undocumented immigrants," said Gepsie Metellus, Sant La's Executive Director. "This measure is not only an insult to the legacy of this country, but is a useless waste of valuable tax dollars at a time when we can least afford it."

The new law requires immigrants to carry proof of their legal status at all times, and requires local law enforcement to question individuals about their immigration status if there is a "reasonable suspicion" that they are undocumented. The legislation also includes a provision that allows citizens to sue law enforcement if they feel they are not enforcing this immigration law to its full extent. "Sant La," Ms. Metellus added, "calls upon the Obama administration to tackle Immigration Reform now, as the Arizona precedent could unleash a patchwork of equally harsh, discriminatory and racist laws from other states."

Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center is a one-stop community resource center. Its mission is to empower and strengthen the Haitian-American community of South Florida through access to services that will ensure its full integration, success and stability.

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