

# Civil Rights, Migrant Farmworkers and Immigration Law

Each year, approximately 90,000 migrant and settle-out farmworkers and their families travel to Michigan to live and work in our communities, assuring that crops are harvested for sale and consumption. This information is provided to ensure that the civil rights of migrant workers and other foreign nationals are protected.

- Law enforcement agencies and leaders throughout Michigan support the position that bias enforcement practices, whether real or perceived, are detrimental to the relationship between the police and the communities they serve because it erodes the foundation of trust needed to provide effective services.
- Law enforcement agencies are encouraged to regularly examine their interdiction and enforcement strategies to ensure that citizens are not being stopped because of their national origin or color, and that all citizens are treated with courtesy and respect.
- Pursuant to the Immigration Reform Act of 1996, state and local law enforcement have no obligation to check or verify an individual's immigration status.
- Michigan civil rights laws prohibit discrimination against any person based on religion, race, color, **national origin**, age, sex, marital status, height, weight, arrest record, familial status or disability. A violation of the law may occur if the motivating reason for a law enforcement contact is based on one of the factors.
- The Michigan Department of Civil Rights is available to provide technical assistance during normal business hours (8-5) at 517/335-3165 or 1/800-482-3604. The Department also investigates complaints of racial profiling pursuant to its authority under the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.
- Migrant workers may be asked to provide identification to the same extent as any other person in Michigan. This includes Michigan or other state driver's license or identification card, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. Examples of types of documents that may help to confirm identification are birth certificate, rent or utility bills, pay stubs, Mexican 'matricula' or other documents that include photos.

This bulletin is provided by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, in collaboration with the Michigan Migrant Services Committee (DHS), Interagency Migrant Resource Committee, Michigan Sheriffs' Association and the Michigan State Police (revised 6/2012)

