

Asunto: Letter from Ricardo Fierro to JT

First of all thanks to the Journal Times for keeping our Racine community informed. You always reported on the events I had and followed me on the things I did for social and community interest over the years; always with professionalism..

Today, I want to follow up on the latest news everyone knows and shares about me.

I can humbly say that it has been an honor and a privilege to have lived, learned, worked, volunteered, helped create programs and with Racine Interfaith Coalition created and attended important events that enrich me as a person and also our whole Racine Community.

The wonderful City of Racine is a diverse community that understands inclusion and gives an opportunity to all its residents no matter where they have come from. Racine is always welcoming, innovating, developing and adjusting to new standards and goals.

I had the privilege to speak to past Racine Mayors, Gary Becker, John T. Dickert and the present Mayor of Racine, Cory D. Mason. They all have understood that bringing diversity in the Racine government was a must have. Past Mayor John Dickert took a leadership role by welcoming new ideas of diversity and unity for all, helping more small business owners and supporting mutual goals. I wish the best for present Mayor of Racine Cory Mason. Thank you for supporting me while I was detained and I know you will work hard for the community.

I have to say a special thank you to my mentors: Maria Morales, Dr. Mike Frontier and Racine Interfaith Coalition and the members who taught me a lot.

A very special thank you also to Linda Boyle, Betty Brenneman, Sue Spicer, Rich Glasenapp, Nikki Fisher, all of RIC's Immigration Task Force, the President of the League of United Latin American Citizens Domingo Garcia and the many more people and my family members that wished me luck and prayed for me and my family while in detention. The support has given me strength, patience and perseverance to continue helping others by translating testimonies, documents for nurses, officers and request forms for all other detainees.

As we all already know I had decided not to appeal the Immigration Judge's decision because of low possibilities of winning my case after a year in detention in the care of the Department of Homeland Security. Many times we don't understand why decisions could be unfair but we accept them with maturity.

I am in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. This city gave me birth and saw me grow. After 23 years of my absence, I am looking forward to a new stage and will adapt to a new life. Thank you all for your always unconditional support.

By Ricardo Fierro.