

Press Release

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### **SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: Parent Committee Hosts Information Awareness Night on Immigration**

To address the fear, confusion and uncertainty expressed by the community to SAFE's bi-lingual outreach workers, an information awareness night was held at Ciudad de Refugio on February 19<sup>th</sup> featuring a presentation by Glen Cove attorney Mr. Benjamin Bratter, who specializes in immigration matters.

To educate the community about their rights and empower them to become self-advocates, Mr. Bratter provided critical guidance on how to respond if Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents come to their residence.

Mr. Bratter emphasized key steps individuals should take to protect themselves:

- Do not open the door – Residents are not required to let ICE agents in unless they have a valid warrant.
- Verify the warrant – A warrant must be signed by a federal civil judge and must be very specific in detail.
- Know your legal support – Individuals should keep their lawyer's contact information readily available in case they need immediate assistance.
- Parents expressed concerns about ICE agents entering schools. In response, Mr. Bratter stated that school districts have assured they will not permit ICE to enter their premises.
- Mr. Bratter emphasized the importance of being prepared in case a spouse is detained. Having a plan in place can make a significant difference in navigating the legal process smoothly. Keep a trusted immigration or criminal defense attorney's number easily accessible.

Mr. Bratter highlighted that understanding these rights can make a significant difference in ensuring due process and legal protection. Attendees were encouraged to share this information within their communities to help others stay informed and prepared.

The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition was formed in 2002 to change societal norms about alcohol and substance use and address the risk factors that contribute to addiction. The Parent Committee of the Coalition, Chaired by Mrs. Laurent Caballero, Ms. Brenda Lopez and Ms. Merrill Mendez, serves as liaison to all parents in the community and acts as a bilingual parent resource for the Latino population. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on [www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition](http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition)