

This is a printer friendly version of an article from the **Daily Record**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

05/2/07 - Posted from the Daily Record newsroom

Rallying cry on Green: 'No human is illegal'

Protesters in Morristown call for reforms Demonstrators also rail against mayor's plan for crackdown

BY MINHAJ HASSAN
DAILY RECORD

MORRISTOWN -- A mostly Hispanic crowd of 250 to 300 turned up on the Green for a Tuesday evening rally to celebrate immigrant workers and show solidarity against Mayor Donald Cresitello's plan to have local police officers deputized to enforce immigration laws.

The local event was mirrored across the country Tuesday to demand a path to citizenship for an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants. Major rallies were held in Phoenix, Detroit and Miami with organizers saying immigrants feel a sense of urgency to keep immigration reform from getting pushed to the back burner by the 2008 presidential elections.

As the rally in Morristown began, one man on the speakers platform used a megaphone to chant, "North to south, east to west, we got to win this battle no matter what it costs. We are America. We pay taxes. No human is illegal"

His sentiments were repeated in interviews with some in the crowd.

Voices in the crowd

Laura Coy, 26, a native of Colombia who now lives in Morristown, said, "Everyone should be allowed to work freely, without being threatened." Cresitello's plan is a "little messed up," she added.

Oscar Marcus, of Morristown, originally from Honduras and now a U.S. citizen, said it is important to have rallies like this. "If we do this, they will hear us," he said.


Alicia Adarbe, of Morristown said, "Morristown needs the Latino-American community; it's good for its businesses."

Most of the early rally speakers delivered their messages in Spanish, but two local clerics addressed the crowd in English. The Rev. Alison Miller, of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, told the crowd: "We must learn to welcome our strangers. We are living in this country where there's enough food and enough land. We must learn to share with one another."

The Rev. Dave Carpenter of the Presbyterian Church drew applause after he said: "We are living in the kingdom of God. Every single human being is in fact your blood brother or sister."

Brian Wallace, 19, of Morristown, said: "I don't mind them; a lot of my friends are Hispanic. It's good to have a mixed town, not like a Mendham or a Harding."

Organizers said the 5 p.m. rally was expected to continue until 7:30 or 8.

 [Click Image to Zoom \(Opens in New Window\)](#)

KAREN MANCINELLI / DAILY RECORD

Protesters supporting immigration reform march on the Green in Morristown on Tuesday. The rally was part of a nationwide show of solidarity.

 [Click Image to Zoom \(Opens in New Window\)](#)

KAREN MANCINELLI / DAILY RECORD

Juan Espinoza wears a Che Guevara shirt and holds a sign at the rally in Morristown on Tuesday.

Related Articles:

- ▄▄ [Fear possible reason for dip in attendance](#)
- ▄▄ [Rally for immigrants rights](#)

Immigrants rally for reform [View this gallery](#)

Immigrants rallied on the Green in Morristown Tuesday for comprehensive immigration reform.

[Click on a thumbnail to view larger image](#)

Related news from the Web

Latest headlines by Topic:

- [Robert Menendez](#)
- [US News](#)
- [US Senate](#)
- [US House of Representatives](#)
- [Immigration Reform](#)
- [Democrat](#)

Powered by [Topix.net](#)

Advertisement

Menendez's view

Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., who has been working closely on immigration reform legislation, said Monday's marches show many immigrants want a workable plan.

"[The] marches again show the eagerness of so many immigrants in our country to fully participate in and contribute to our society," Menendez said in a statement. "As we continue negotiations in Congress toward comprehensive immigration reform, a majority of Americans want a realistic new system ... That goal continues to be my focus, and I remain hopeful that we will pass bipartisan, consensus reform that addresses immigration in a sensible and humane manner when the Senate takes up this issue at the end of the month."

Mayor's plan

Nearly two months ago, Cresitello made the controversial move of sending an application to the Department of Homeland Security to have a handful of local police officers deputized to enforce immigration laws. Some residents have shown support, while others oppose the plan. Supporters said it will help reduce such chronic problems in the town as stacking and some serious crimes Cresitello said have taken place but hasn't specified, since they are still under investigation.

Detractors, however, have said it will make the town's Latino population a target for police officers that could lead to profiling and sour the relationship between them and the immigrants, especially when reporting crimes or providing tips.

Officials from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement have said the deputization plan, known as 287-G, is not intended to randomly round up illegal immigrants, but to help streamline the process of bringing criminal foreign nationals to justice, as well as facilitate possible removal from the country.

Several New Jersey towns have attempted to enact laws to counteract the influx of illegal immigrants, with varying degrees of success. Many of the laws have targeted laborers who gather each morning to seek day work, or landlords who hire or rent apartments to illegal immigrants.

Minhaj Hassan can be reached at (973) 267-9038 or mhassan@gannett.com.
