



August 19, 2024

Mr. Tracy Honea, Mayor of Albertville  
Albertville City Council  
116 W Main Street  
Council Chambers  
Albertville, AL 35950

RE: Protecting our migrant neighbors

Dear Mayor Honea and Albertville City Council,

We, the undersigned, are writing to express our concerns about the proposed enforcement of Zoning Ordinances 1454-15/897-08. The enforcement of these ordinances would clearly be directed toward migrants living together for survival. The enforcement measures as they are being proposed are inherently discriminatory and threaten not only the people directly impacted, but our city as a whole. Albertville should take pride in their ability to welcome new people, love our neighbors, and invest in our community.

We understand Albertville is facing challenges. It is hard for families from all walks of life to find housing. The cost of living keeps increasing. Reclaiming Our Time serves hundreds of Albertville residents every month. We see the needs up close on a regular basis. Some people in this community are pushing the baseless idea that our new neighbors, particularly those from Haiti, are to blame for the challenges we all face. Putting our hardworking neighbors on the street will not make our housing more affordable. It will not make the cost of living go down. It will not decrease crime. Our new neighbors are not the source of our challenges and scapegoating them will only hurt us all.

If, as a city, we choose to turn our backs on our neighbors – we will lose an opportunity to not only live up to the vision listed on your website, but to have additional friends and neighbors with whom we can face these challenges together. Moreover, what will people looking to invest in our community see? Will they see a dynamic community ready for new



ideas, new businesses, new jobs? Or will they see a community that chases out growth and change?

The City of Albertville has a choice to make. Do we want to live up to our values of being a welcoming community that cares for our neighbors? Or, will we succumb to the temptation to scapegoat some of our neighbors for our shared challenges?

We are signing this letter not only as people who want the best for our neighbors, but as people who want the best for Albertville as well. We are joined by those from across Alabama who want to see our state flourish.

Signed,  
Unique Morgan Dunston  
Founder of Reclaiming Our Time

Reclaiming Our Time  
ACLU of Alabama  
Fair Housing Center of Northern Alabama  
Alabama Coalition of Immigrant Justice  
Project Say Something  
The Reverend Shari Harrison  
The Reverend Ben Alford  
Minister Daniel Rogers  
Standing In Power  
Welcoming America  
North Alabama Showing Up for Racial Justice(SURJ)  
Bham Stands  
At The Root Collective  
North Alabama Democratic Socialists of America  
Faith and Works Statewide Civic Engagement Collective  
Black Lives Matter Birmingham  
Mary's House Catholic Worker



Jacob Morrison, President of the North Alabama Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
Birmingham Showing Up for Racial Justice( Bham SURJ)  
Ashley S. McGuire, MLIS, PhD