

Please see the Frequently Asked Questions below regarding a search warrant delivered to CPLC recently by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

1. What happened? Why was CPLC served a search warrant?

On December 10, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office delivered a search warrant to CPLC's corporate headquarters on Buckeye Rd. in south Phoenix. The warrant requested information about loans made by CPLC's lending branch, Prestamos, to a Maricopa County Supervisor who is being investigated for not disclosing these loans when she voted to award county funds to CPLC.

CPLC complied with the Sheriff's requests and provided all information requested.

2. Is CPLC the target of an investigation?

No, CPLC is not the target of any investigation and the organization has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

3. What is CPLC's position on this matter?

Prestamos CDFI LLC, the small business lending subsidiary of Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. (CPLC), in no way acted improperly in making loans to Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox for her small business. These loans were reviewed and granted in accordance with Prestamos's strict underwriting guidelines.

Additionally, there was no conflict of interest involved with CPLC receiving Maricopa County funding, which supported our HIV/AIDS minority outreach program. In securing this funding, CPLC followed the standard procurement procedures established by the county and received no form of special treatment from the county or any other entity.

CPLC takes any inquiries related to our business operations very seriously. We are committed to the continued economic development of our community, and we strive to maintain the high ethical standards that have driven our organization for the past 40 years.

4. How have CPLC and the community reacted to this situation?

CPLC complied fully with all requests made by the Sheriff's Office. However, we do not feel it was necessary for the Sheriff to raid our offices in order to get the information requested. During its 40-year history, CPLC has always acted with complete transparency and would have gladly provided any information requested without 20 officers raiding our office.

Numerous community groups and leaders came together on Friday December 11, one day after the raid, to express their outrage over the Sheriff's actions and show their support for CPLC. These community groups joined CPLC to hold a press conference and let their feelings be known.

5. Is CPLC continuing to provide services as normal?

Yes, CPLC is continuing to offer the same wide range of services to the community as usual. Clients should feel completely comfortable reaching out to CPLC.

6. I am a client of CPLC. Is my information safe?

Yes, your personal information is completely safe with CPLC. Specific case files were not shared with any third party. The only hard copy files that CPLC provided to the Sheriff's Office were those containing specific information requested in the search warrant. However, the Sheriff's office did take copies of all emails in CPLC's system. Sheriff officers have assured CPLC that only documents specifically pertaining to their investigation will be reviewed.

7. What happens now?

An investigation into the loans mentioned above is underway. CPLC does not know when the results of the investigation will be available. These results will determine what our next steps will be.

CPLC will continue to monitor the situation to ensure the integrity of our services is not compromised. The continued trust and respect of the community is an utmost organizational priority.