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Parents Join Civic Leaders to Highlight How Climate Change is Affecting Families, With Special Focus on Latino Community

Event Coincides with Global Climate Summit of World Leaders in New York

(September, 22nd, Austin, TX) This morning at Austin City Hall, parents and community and elected leaders held a bilingual press conference to highlight how climate change is affecting Austin, with a particular focus on the impacts in the Latino community and on children and families. This event coincides with a global climate summit of world leaders in New York and takes place just after the largest climate march in world history, in which 400,000 people took to the streets calling for bold action on climate change.

Press conference speakers highlighted a critical report entitled [What We Know](#) that was written by Latino Nobel Prize winner Mario Molina of the Scripps Institute and published by the American Academy for the Advancement of Science. Newly released in [Spanish](#), the report highlights evidence of regional climate impacts, such as increasing rates of respiratory illness, wildfires and drought. Speakers also focused on regional climate and clean energy solutions.

Referring to the report, **Austin City Council Member Mike Martinez said**, "The report verifies what those of us in Austin have been experiencing, which is that carbon pollution is fueling climate disruption and causing extreme drought, wildfires and more." He added, "I stand with the hundreds of Austinites who marched this weekend and wish to send a message today to the global leaders gathered in New York for the climate summit, which is that we're focused on expanding clean energy, because it's what our children and communities deserve."

Speaking for the national organization **Climate Parents, local mother and immigrants' rights activist Nora De La Rosa stated**, "Latinos are very strong supporters of action to fight climate change." She added, "My nephews and daughter have asthma and are impacted by the pollution that comes from burning fossil fuels, and my family works in many of the jobs that are exposed to extreme heat and drought, so for us, finding climate solutions is very personal."

Across Texas, economies from Austin to Plainview to the Rio Grande Valley are experiencing the impacts of climate disruption in the form of job losses, record fires, and water shortages. "As the report author Mario Molina states, acting now to address climate disruption is critically important," said **Sierra Club Organizer Mayte Salazar**. "Whether it's the loss of more than 2,000 jobs at the Cargill plant in Plainview, or the millions in damages and deaths due to the Onion Creek Floods in Austin, climate disruption is harming Latinos right now, and in response we will continue to show that Austin can lead the way in building a 21st Century clean economy."

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