

HAMILTON COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-03-01

**RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT HAMILTON COUNTY WILL NOT SPEND OR ACCEPT LOCAL TAX DOLLARS ON THE IMMIGRATION CRISIS FOR MIGRANTS AND/OR ASYLUM SEEKERS ENTERING HAMILTON COUNTY**

WHEREAS, The Hamilton County Board understands that emergency circumstances may arise that warrants or requires unexpected and limited use of resources to deal with issues related to the immigration crisis; and

WHEREAS, The Hamilton County Board is aware that there is a national immigration crisis at the border between the United States and Mexico where an unprecedented and overwhelming number of migrants and asylum seekers are crossing over the open border and entering the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Hamilton County Board is aware that this immigration crisis involves a large influx of migrants and asylum seekers without family, jobs, housing or other resources, which has placed a significant demand on the resources needed to support these individuals in the communities in which they have arrived; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has failed or refused to adequately anticipate and react to the exigent and emergent circumstances, resulting in a significant number of migrants and asylum seekers traveling to the State of Illinois after entering into the United States; and

WHEREAS, the state government has failed or refused to adequately anticipate and properly react to the exigent and emergent circumstances, and continues extending a 30-day proclamation (first issued in September 2022) declaring Illinois a "welcoming state" and all counties in Illinois a disaster area as a result of the immigration crisis, giving broad executive power to the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Chicago, Brandon Johnson, although declaring Chicago as a sanctuary city, has failed and refused to adequately address the needs of such migrants and asylum seekers transferred to Chicago and has instead abdicated his duties and responsibilities to those migrants and asylum seekers, causing them to be transferred to other Illinois cities; and

WHEREAS, some bus services have been retained to drop off large numbers of these individuals - including children - without warning at unpredictable hours and in all weather conditions in a manner that leaves the individuals exposed to great risks, and the communities in which they arrive unprepared to assist them adequately; and

WHEREAS, there is no reason to believe that after arriving here that any such migrants or asylum seekers will leave Hamilton County, Illinois or that many more migrants and asylum seekers will not be transported to Hamilton County, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, said migrants and asylum seekers have no means provide for their own housing and other basic necessities for themselves; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County has no homeless shelters or emergency temporary housing services and cannot accommodate homeless individuals; and

WHEREAS, there is a reasonable apprehension of immediate danger of public emergency of a significant number of such migrants and asylum seekers being transported to Hamilton County and that Hamilton County would be responsible for the cost of the public safety and the care of these persons and all others effected in Hamilton County; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Board anticipates potential civil disobedience and protesting on this issue against the transportation of migrants and asylum seekers to Hamilton County, which would expend a significant amount of the already limited resources to address this issue and take away from necessary services to local Hamilton County residents; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County tax dollars are budgeted to meet the needs of Hamilton County residents and adding to the cost of public services, such as law enforcement, housing, food, and medical care, for a large number of migrants and asylum seekers would be detrimental to the budget needed to provide essential services for Hamilton County citizens; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County has inadequate infrastructure to meet the needs of even a small number of migrants and asylum seekers, including but not limited to transportation, food, and medical care; and

WHEREAS, there is reasonable apprehension of immediate danger thereof, that the public safety is at risk, for the residents of Hamilton County, as well as the migrants and asylum seekers; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County does not have resources to establish itself as a sanctuary county; and

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF HAMILTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS THAT:** Absent emergency circumstances, Hamilton County will not accept or provide tax payer funded services or dollars to migrants and/or asylum seekers as a result of the immigration crisis and emergency created by the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, and the Federal Government in failing to adequately prepare for and prevent the exponential increase of illegal migrants and/or asylum

seekers entering the United States of America who travel into the State of Illinois or County of Hamilton.

This Resolution shall be in effect upon its passage and approval as provided by law.

On roll call vote, this Resolution No. 2024-03-01 passes this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

Kelly Woodson VOTING yes Chairman

John F. Mead VOTING yes

John Canell VOTING yes

[Signature] VOTING yes

[Signature] VOTING yes

ATTEST:

Heather Bowman

Heather Bowman, County Clerk/Recorder