

## RESOLUTION 24 - 17

### Resolution- Ford County Declares it is a NON-Sanctuary County for Immigrants

**WHEREAS** Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution gives Congress the power to establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and;

**WHEREAS** it is the duty of Congress to establish all laws and rules regarding naturalization, and;

**WHEREAS** the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified on July 9, 1869, and granted citizenship to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States" are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside, and;

**WHEREAS** local law enforcement in Illinois is dedicated to protecting the communities they serve and promoting public safety requires the assistance and cooperation of the community, so law enforcement has the ability to gather the information necessary to solve and deter crime, and;

**WHEREAS** the trust of residents is crucial to ensure that they report crimes, provide witness statements, cooperate with law enforcement and feel comfortable seeking help when they are concerned about their safety, and;

**WHEREAS** Illinois law enforcement is governed by the 2017 Illinois Trust Act, which helps bolster cooperation with communities and confirms that law enforcement entities in Illinois are largely prohibited from participating in immigration enforcement operations thus declaring Illinois a "Sanctuary State" for immigration, and;

**WHEREAS** local law enforcement may not enter into immigration enforcement agreements with federal immigration authorities, and;

**WHEREAS** there is no express or inherent authority under Illinois law that permits state or local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration law, and;

**WHEREAS** local law enforcement may not stop, arrest search or detain an individual on the sole basis that they are undocumented, and;

**WHEREAS** only federal officers have the authority to arrest an individual for violation of civil immigration law without a criminal arrest, and;

**WHEREAS** Illinois cities, such as Chicago have declared themselves a "SANCTUARY CITY" by passing their "Welcoming City Ordinance" in 2021 protecting undocumented immigrants and refugees, and;

**WHEREAS** the volume of asylum seekers in voluntary Sanctuary Cities are reportedly overwhelming social service agencies and straining community resources, and;

**WHEREAS** those who enter the country illegally create the greatest burden on those who have entered legally often competing for the same jobs and opportunities

**WHEREAS** Ford County recognizes the humanitarian plight of those seeking refuge and asylum from oppressive governments in other parts of the world, and;

**WHEREAS** the federal government's refusal to enforce said immigration laws empowers drug cartels and victimizes women and children and often results in the exploitation of migrants, many of which have not filed asylum applications and are currently unaccounted for; and

**WHEREAS** Ford County respects the history of the United States as a beacon of freedom and opportunity, and;

**WHEREAS** Ford County recognizes and supports legal immigration through the proper channels of government, and;

**WHEREAS** Ford County supports the Sheriff's Office to uphold the law, federal immigration policy, and to protect and preserve public safety in our community

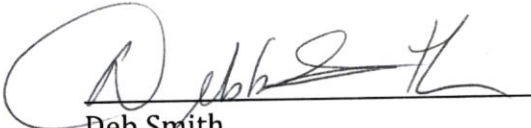
**WHEREAS** those who pay taxes and follow the laws of the land have been unfairly exploited and burdened by those who do not pay taxes and choose not to follow the laws of the land, and;

**WHEREAS** Ford County supports and upholds the rights of those legally in our communities and currently paying taxes to support the services we provide to our community, and;

**WHEREAS** Ford County by declaring itself a NON-SANCTUARY COUNTY pledges and re-dedicates its limited resources to its residents in need: Seniors, families living below the poverty level, veterans, and all those in need of Social Services already here in Ford County,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY OF FORD, ILLINOIS**, unit of local government by and through the Ford County Board that we declare ourselves a NON-SANCTUARY COUNTY for IMMIGRATION, dedicating our limited resources to all those already in need here in Ford County.

Passed and Adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> Day of 20 February, 2024.

  
Deb Smith  
Chairman of the Ford County Board

ATTEST:

  
Amy Frederick  
Ford County Clerk & Recorder

