

**A Resolution Affirming Washtenaw County as a
Welcoming County that Respects the Innate Dignity of All People**

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 17, 2017

WHEREAS, Welcoming America was launched in 2009 as a national, grassroots-driven, collaborative that works to promote mutual respect and cooperation between foreign-born and native-born Americans; and

WHEREAS, Welcoming America municipal engagement initiatives support and recognize the economic and social benefits of becoming welcoming communities and fostering a welcoming culture; and

WHEREAS, Rather than just a problem needing to be solved, immigration is a force that can be leveraged for positive change and development; and

WHEREAS, There are over 43,000 foreign born residents in Washtenaw County, representing more than twelve percent of the County's population, and where Statewide the rate is 6%; and

WHEREAS, Participants in the Welcoming America initiative receive support in connecting community leaders, government officials and nonprofit sectors to create a more inclusive and accepting environment for immigrants through system and culture change; and

WHEREAS, 13 Michigan municipalities have become Welcoming Communities including Battle Creek, Detroit, Lansing, Sterling Heights, Clinton Township, Macomb and Kalamazoo County.

WHEREAS, By City Council resolution approved in June of 2016, The City of Ann Arbor became the newest Welcoming Community in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, families facing immigration actions often suffer from secondary complications such as the loss of income from a primary earner, which can lead to housing or hunger issues; and

WHEREAS, legal pathways to residency or citizenship are often complex and difficult to navigate, especially for non-native speakers of English, and residents facing immigration actions sometimes have difficulty accessing legal services; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners seeks to proactively counter the negative effects of a hostile immigration enforcement environment by ensuring that families are more stable, civil rights are protected, and all residents have equitable access to public services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby affirms its desire to participate in the Welcoming America Initiative and directs the Administrator or his delegates to complete the application process including a \$200 membership fee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby directs the Office of Community and Economic Development to make funding not to exceed \$70,000 available through the Barrier Busters Emergency Unmet Needs Fund. No less than \$25,000 will be dedicated for the purpose of providing emergency financial support to low-income immigrant individuals and families, including but not limited to supports for housing, utilities, transportation, child care, psychological services and food assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OCED staff will continue to intentionally coordinate with organizations who primarily serve and work with immigrant populations to ensure these funds are specifically available to those affected by immigration enforcement, both directly or indirectly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator shall contract with the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center by providing funding in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 in order to provide community-based trainings and to coordinate and provide legal services for individuals and families for immigration and immigration-related issues, including but not limited to child custody, power of attorney, visas, citizenship or legal resident applications, and detention and deportation support. These funds may be used to coordinate legal services across the country or to provide direct legal support. These funds may not be used for criminal defense of any charge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Administrator to amend the 2017 General Fund Budget in alignment with these allocations.

COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A
Brabec	X			LaBarre	X			Smith	X		
Deatrick	X			Martinez-Kratz	X						
Jamnick		X		Morgan			X				
Jefferson	X			Ping			X				

CLERK/REGISTER'S CERTIFICATE - CERTIFIED COPY

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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STATE OF MICHIGAN)

I, Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register of said County of Washtenaw and Clerk of Circuit Court for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners at a session held at the County Administration Building in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on May 17th, 2017, as it appears of record in my office.

COUNTY OF WASHTENAW)^{SS}.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at Ann Arbor, this 18th day of May, 2017.

LAWRENCE KESTENBAUM, Clerk/Register

BY: _____ Deputy Clerk



Res. No. 17-079