

RESOLUTION NO. 33 OF 2024

RESOLUTION DECLARING LANCASTER COUNTY A NON-SANCTUARY COUNTY, SETTING PRIORITIES AND EXPECTATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE POTENTIAL INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS INTO LANCASTER COUNTY AND CALLING UPON THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE ACTION TO MITIGATE THE CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

On motion of Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____,

WHEREAS, Lancaster County respects the history of the United States as a beacon of freedom and opportunity around the world and recognizes the plight of those seeking refuge and asylum from various issues in other parts of the world; and,

WHEREAS, Lancaster County is proud of its rich and august nearly 300 year history as a place where people from all over the world sought religious, political and economic freedom and legally settled here to make our country and county a better place; and,

WHEREAS, Lancaster County supports legal immigration into the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has failed to take responsive steps to address the systemic issues of the ongoing migrant crisis at the southern border and to secure the border; and,

WHEREAS, Lancaster County dedicates significant staffing and spends considerable amount of taxpayer funds to provide temporary housing, including emergency shelter, and various services to individuals experiencing homelessness; and,

WHEREAS, Lancaster County, like many communities across the country, have seen a significant increase in the demand for public/social services among residents, putting a strain on resources due to the effects of high inflation and federal policies over the past few years; and

WHEREAS, those who enter the country illegally accelerate demand and increase unsustainability of public infrastructure, such as social services, public safety and health, schools and the justice system, which can pose a significant public health and safety risk to a community; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Lancaster has adopted Ordinance No. 1-2024, which states, in part, that “officials or employees of the City shall not utilize City resources...to provide any information to immigration enforcement officials...” and further “advocates for the adoption of similar practices and policies by other municipalities...”; and,

WHEREAS, such adopted policies may attract an influx of migrants here illegally to not just the City, but other municipalities across Lancaster County and that such influx has created chaos and crisis with respect to an untenable spike in demand for human services, increased crime such as theft, drug and sex trafficking, as seen in other communities across the nation; and,

WHEREAS, communities across the nation that declared themselves “sanctuary” are now rethinking and/or rescinding those policies and the President of the United States has called upon “sanctuary cities to cooperate with ICE;” and,

WHEREAS, citizens of Lancaster County have expressed concern over the transport of migrants entering the country illegally into the County’s jurisdictional limits for the reasons stated in this Resolution; and,

WHEREAS, federal law at 8 U.S.C. § 1373 prohibits policies that impede cooperation between federal, state, and local officials when it comes to the sending, requesting, maintaining, or exchanging of information regarding immigration status; and,

WHEREAS, the Lancaster County Sheriff has declared that he and his Office will continue to cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials in connection with illegal migrants found in Lancaster County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESSOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and we do hereby declare that Lancaster County is NOT a sanctuary county and that we will continue to prioritize the needs of our local citizens, uphold the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in conformance with 8 U.S.C. § 1624 and other federal and state statutes, that agencies of, and/or funded by the County, shall only provide those services required by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, and we hereby call upon:

1. The President of the United States to perform his constitutional duty and take immediate and effective action to secure our nation’s border and enforce existing immigration laws; and,
2. Municipalities and law enforcement throughout Lancaster County to cooperate with federal law enforcement, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials, regarding persons found to be in the United States and Lancaster County illegally; and
3. The City Council of the City of Lancaster, PA to repeal Ordinance No. 01-2024; and
4. Municipalities throughout Lancaster County to adopt similar Non-Sanctuary Resolutions.

Adopted by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners, Pennsylvania, in duly called session on this 20th day of March 2024.

ATTEST:

Lawrence M. George
County Administrator/Chief Clerk
County of Lancaster, PA

Joshua G. Parsons, Chairman

Ray D'Agostino, Vice Chairman

Alice Yoder, Commissioner

Board of Commissioners of
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania