

45-R-18

A RESOLUTION

Declaring the Evanston City Council's Opposition to the Trump Administration "Zero Tolerance" Policy, Opposition to the Indefinite Detention of Children with their Parents, and Urging for the Reunification of All Detained and Separated Families

WHEREAS, considerable attention has been paid to the plight of children at the Southern border and the New York Times recently reported that the Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") has confirmed that the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") has separated more than seven hundred (700) children from their parents since October 2017, including more than one hundred (100) children under age four; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice has adopted a "zero tolerance" policy toward individuals apprehended at the border, which calls for the criminal prosecution of all migrants entering the United States outside of ports of entry and the resulting forced separation of many children from their families; and

WHEREAS, this prosecution-first mentality is costly, taxing on our courts, and unnecessarily punitive, especially as it affects family units; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a higher standard than legality, with our country's most basic moral commitment being human rights and dignity; and

WHEREAS, forced family segregation and the intentional infliction of injury to children are below the standards of the United States and inconsistent with American values; and

WHEREAS, many of these families are fleeing violence in their home countries, and it is inhumane to punish them for seeking safety and invoking their right to seek asylum in the United States; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order on June 20, 2018, which provides for a broad stop to separating families at the border but does not change anything to put families back together that have already been separated and allows for the indefinite detention of children with their parents; and

WHEREAS, the Evanston City Council seeks to register its objections to the aforementioned policy and its implications in unity with other municipalities nationwide, together voicing the rejection of this inhumane treatment of immigrant families,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THAT:

SECTION 1: The foregoing recitals are found as fact and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2: The Evanston City Council registers its strong opposition to separating children from their families at the border and calls on the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice to allow all families apprehended to remain together to the extent possible, to help avoid the heartbreak and irreversible trauma of forced separation.

SECTION 3: The Evanston City Council urges Congress to take action immediately to ensure that the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security are prohibited from this separation of children from their families at the border

and the indefinite detention of children with their parents, contrary to federal prohibitions on detaining children in immigration facilities for longer than twenty (20) days.

SECTION 4: A copy of this resolution will be forwarded to Illinois' representatives in the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives, United States President Donald J. Trump, United States Department of Justice Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and United States Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen.

SECTION 5: This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval in the manner required by law.

Attest:



Devon Reid, City Clerk

Adopted: June 25, 2018



Stephen H. Hagerty, Mayor

Approved as to form:



Michelle L. Masoncup, Corporation Counsel