

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-__

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

A RESOLUTION REGARDING MIGRANT RESPONSE

WHEREAS, a “Sanctuary City” is a jurisdiction that limits cooperation with federal immigration authorities, fails to provide information about immigration status and limits the length of immigration detainers; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 Denver City Council passed an ordinance effectively making Denver a Sanctuary City by prohibiting city employees from collecting information on immigration or citizenship status, prohibiting the sharing of any other information about individuals for the purposes of immigration enforcement, and prohibiting the use of city resources for immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Denver declared itself a Sanctuary City at a time when the Federal government was taking proactive action to secure the border and reduce the significant negative impact to American communities from illegal entry into the country; and

WHEREAS, 50,000 Venezuelan migrants arrived at the southern border last month, and 195,848 have arrived since last September, comprising nearly 10% of the 2 million migrants apprehended by Border Patrol in fiscal year 2023 according to data recently obtained by CBS News. Many are released to seek asylum, a process that can take years. As of October 11th, 23,791 migrants had arrived in Denver for shelter and support, and over 3,068 are currently sheltered in non-city facilities like hotels. On October 1st alone, nine busloads arrived from Texas.

WHEREAS, On April 28th, a 25-year-old man was kidnapped from an RTD Park-N-Ride in Highlands Ranch. The Douglas County Sheriff’s Office and a law enforcement agency in Rockford, Illinois arrested two Venezuelan migrants, who are being held on charges of kidnapping and assault; and

WHEREAS, those who enter the country illegally can pose a significant public health risk to a community when there is an increase in crime, communicable disease, and demand on public infrastructure such as roads, services, public safety, and the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver saw an increase in its homeless population from 4,794 in 2022 to 5,818 in 2023 according to the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative’s point-in-time count, and does not have the resources or infrastructure to address the human needs it is currently facing; and

WHEREAS, adding to that burden by making itself a Sanctuary City and imposing that on the Denver Metropolitan Area is unacceptable to those we represent; 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; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Douglas County respects the history of the United States as a beacon of freedom and opportunity in the world; and

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, the Adams County Board of Health adopted a public health order on October 10th requiring notice to the health department prior to shelter establishment within Adams County, and establishing operational standards for such facilities; and

WHEREAS, Larimer County hosted 60 migrants in December and found that "the nonprofits that work case management for migrants here are very small and their capacity is extremely limited, "that the majority of migrants seek transportation outside of Larimer County," and that "Therefore it does not make financial or logistical sense to bus migrants into Larimer County only for our staff to arrange transportation back to Denver;" and

WHEREAS, Douglas County partners regionally to address homelessness and has recently committed \$1.25 million in ARPA funds to support the City of Aurora's Regional Navigation Campus, because the County does not have scalable shelter services to serve large population influxes; and

WHEREAS, Douglas County seeks to limit the potential for disputes about the ability for Douglas County to provide services to migrant populations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO, THAT:

Douglas County supports citizens of Douglas County, Colorado, and the United States of America; and

Douglas 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

Douglas County recognizes this humanitarian plight and supports legal immigration through the proper channels of government; and

Douglas County expressly affirms that the County is not a sanctuary jurisdiction, and calls on the cities and counties in the Denver Metropolitan Area - including the City and County of Denver and the new Denver Mayor - to publicly do the same; and

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

Douglas County calls on the Board of Health to examine the impacts of recent immigration to Denver and issue proactive and responsive Public Health Orders regarding the same; and

Douglas County encourages willing and interested County residents to volunteer, donate essential items, or contribute to the Newcomer Fund, which supports nonprofit and government organizations who are providing necessary services to the incoming migrant population arriving in Colorado, including food, clothing, and medical needs; emergency shelter; employment opportunities; and wraparound support.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2023, in Castle Rock, Colorado.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

BY: _____
Abe Laydon, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Roberta Nelson, Clerk to the Board