

RESOLUTION RELATING TO: REAFFIRMING KINGSTON AS A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE CITY

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston, N.Y. is proud to be a city that values diversity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston has long considered itself a city of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston is committed to upholding and protecting the civil and human rights of all individuals within the City and has long prohibited discrimination based on race, ethnicity, immigration status, national origin, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability or other protected characteristics in the provision of its services; and

WHEREAS, it is particularly essential to the mission of the City's emergency services departments that victims report crimes or injuries, cooperate fully in investigations, and summon help when needed; and

WHEREAS, the threat of deportation or prosecution for no reason other than immigration status may discourage residents without legal immigration status or who have family members or friends without legal immigration status from reporting crimes or injuries, cooperating in investigations, seeking opportunities for their children living in this community, or summoning help when needed; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of federal immigration laws is the prerogative of federal enforcement agencies, not local law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Kingston Police Department has long held to the practice that it does not inquire into a person's immigration status upon initial contact; and

WHEREAS, the Kingston Police Department has long determined that it will give full priority to public safety and justice concerns in preference over rigid enforcement of immigration regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Kingston Police Department, Mayor and Police Commission will develop policies and procedures as to if and when undocumented foreign nationals will be referred to the appropriate federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston has no formal existing agreements to enforce immigration policy; and

WHEREAS, no other City department inquires into the immigration status of individuals before making government services available to that individual; and

WHEREAS, these practices are generally considered to be "Sanctuary City" policies; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Kingston has reaffirmed the City's commitment to be welcoming and inclusive to all and supports codifying these City's long-standing practices into City policy; and

WHEREAS, federal law does not require local law enforcement or other local service providers to inquire into an individual's immigration status or to respond to federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer requests so that these principles are not inconsistent with federal law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council also reaffirms the City of Kingston commitment to continue its longstanding and legal practice of not inquiring into the immigration status of individuals being provided local government services.