



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF
THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF LANSING
APRIL 3, 2017**

City Council Chambers
Lansing, Michigan

The City Council of the City of Lansing met in special session and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Spitzley

PRESENT: Council Members Brown Clarke, Dunbar, Houghton, Spitzley, Washington, Wood, Yorko

ABSENT: Council Member Hussain

Council Member Yorko asked people to remember Rob Kladja, who recently passed away, during the moment of Meditation. The Council observed a moment of Meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Spitzley

By Vice President Wood that the Council resolve into the Committee of the Whole.

Motion Carried.

The Council arose at 6:46 p.m.

**SPEAKER REGISTRATION FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

City Clerk Swope announced that the public comment registration form(s) for those intending to address Council on legislative matters will be collected and that only those persons who have fully completed the form(s) will be permitted to speak.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Richard H. Boyd of Lansing Township spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Mary Walrath of De Witt Township spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Council Member Washington left the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Shawna Bodine of Delhi Township spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Kelly Schalter of Delhi Township spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Mike Tuell spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

David Douglass spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Caroline Wong of Detroit spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Seth Kalis spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Emily Dievendorf spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Ed Mondemayor of Delhi Township spoke about the Welcoming City

resolution.

Jon Paton spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Liana Mulholland of Detroit spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Yvonne Christopher spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Tyler Wood of Detroit spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Maximo Anguiano of Lansing Township spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Oscar Castaneda spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Vincent Delgado spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Michael Fredendall spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Daniel Sadowsky spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Amelie Lepley spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Chelsea Bridson spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Ronald Holley spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Mikey Taylor spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Benjamin Guins spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Jonathan Evans spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Bob Pena spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Jack Langdon spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

Jonas Higbee of East Lansing spoke about the Welcoming City resolution.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #2017-066

BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, Lansing fosters a culture and environment that makes it a vibrant, global city where our immigrant and refugee residents can fully participate in and be integrated into the social, civic and economic fabric of Lansing; and

WHEREAS, the issue of immigration is essentially one of basic human rights, exemplified by the growing number of communities passing resolutions seeking to protect immigrants' rights; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lansing has a long history of commitment to preserving civil rights and liberties, regardless of immigrant or refugee status; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in fourteen (7.95%) Lansing residents is foreign born with fifty-one different native languages spoken by the student population of the Lansing School District; and

WHEREAS, Lansing benefits tremendously from the large number of diverse immigrants and refugees who contribute to the development of a culturally and economically diverse and enriched community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lansing is committed to recognizing the dignity of all its residents, including the rights of all Lansing residents to live in a City that does not subject them to prejudicial treatment or discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Lansing is committed to continue building a welcoming, safe and hate-free environment in communities, where all immigrants and refugees are welcomed, accepted, and integrated, and to encourage business leaders, civic groups, community institutions, and residents to join in community wide effort to adopt policies and practices that promote integration, inclusion and equity; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Lansing City Council adopted a resolution expressing concerns about the USA Patriot Act being used to deny or abuse individuals' civil rights and liberties based on ethnicity, religion, or immigrant status; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Lansing City Council adopted a Human Rights Ordinance (HRO) that protects members of our community from discrimination based on a number of irrelevant factors, including race, religion, ancestry, and national origin, and later amended the HRO to expand protections and strengthen the complaint process; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the City of Lansing became one of twelve counties, cities, and townships across Michigan designated "welcoming communities" for refugees and immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the Council rebukes any effort by the United States government unconstitutionally discriminate against persons based on their country of origin, immigration status, or religion or to mischaracterize foreign-born persons as public safety threats; and

WHEREAS, a common thread among all these communities, regardless of the label we adopt, is our desire to create a safe, welcoming environment for immigrants and refugees by adopting policies that build trust and encourage unguarded interactions with local officials; and

WHEREAS, an increasingly hostile anti-immigrant and racist atmosphere is being promoted by a vocal minority that represents neither American values nor the majority of our citizenry; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order targeting undocumented immigrants and threatening to withhold federal funding from any unit of government the Secretary of Homeland Security designates as a "sanctuary" jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bernero released a statement declaring he "stand[s] with the thousands of immigrants and refugees who have resettled in Lansing"; and

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder said he is "going to continue to promote Michigan as a welcoming place for immigrants"; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the US Conference of Mayors and the President of the Major Cities [Police] Chiefs Association released a joint statement reinforcing the idea that "immigrants residing in our cities must be able to trust the police and all of city government"; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Lansing City Council agree that welcoming policies build trust and make communities safer by encouraging cooperation among immigrants and city departments and alleviating the fear of deportation that often prevents undocumented immigrants

from reporting crime (as victims) and coming forward with information to assist investigators (as witnesses); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Lansing City Council stand united in our commitment to the just treatment and equal protection of all residents, regardless of their country of origin or immigration status.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Lansing recommit its policy to be a Welcoming City by reaffirming the City of Lansing as a Welcoming City that promotes policies and programs to foster inclusion for all, and serves its residents regardless of their immigration or refugee status, race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political ideology, disability, homelessness, low-income or veteran status, and reaffirming the City's continuing commitment to advocate and support the wellbeing of all residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Lansing City Council encourages our officials, officers and employees to inspire trust among all residents, especially members of Lansing's immigrant and refugee communities, by maintaining confidential reporting and information gathering without concern for national origin or immigrant status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council stands with their regional partners reaffirming that City of Lansing is a Welcoming City for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Lansing City Council supports the City of Lansing challenging, to the greatest extent permitted by law, efforts by the state or federal government to require our police officers to enforce federal immigration laws because doing so would irreparably damage the trust between our police officers and our citizens. Such actions would also diminish the time and resources our police officers spend responding to citizen calls for service, conducting investigations and engaging in targeted efforts to reduce violent crime. If necessary, the Council supports the City's pursuit of all available legal remedies to enjoin or void any state or federal action that would redirect the City's law enforcement resources toward immigration-related matters.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Lansing City Council stand united in sustaining Lansing's culture of diversity and inclusion by welcoming and supporting immigrants and refugees from all nationalities, religions, and backgrounds with policies and programs that foster inclusion for all. When possible, Lansing elected officials and employees shall support the efforts of elected officials and staff in local jurisdictions throughout Michigan in developing policies protecting vulnerable populations whose rights may be abrogated and interests harmed by those hostile to maintaining or expanding protections to these communities and who would unconstitutionally and illegally misuse the power of the federal government to do so.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council declares the City of Lansing a Sanctuary City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council declares the City of Lansing a Sanctuary City according to the Mayor's April 3, 2017 Executive Order and this Resolution.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lansing City Council is in full support of the Mayor's Executive Order of April 3, 2017.

By Vice President Wood

By Council Member Yorko to amend the resolution by inserting "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council declares the City of Lansing a Sanctuary City according to the Mayor's April 3, 2017 Executive Order and this Resolution."

Motion Carried with President Spitzley voting "Nay"

The question being adoption of the resolution as amended.

Motion Carried

MOTION OF EXCUSED ABSENCE

By Vice President Wood to excuse Council Members Hussain, Washington from tonight's proceedings.

Motion Carried

REMARKS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

President Spitzley thanked the Council Members and City Attorney Smiertka for their work on this issue.

Council Member Yorke announced the Capital City Film Festival and Recycle-Rama.

Council Member Houghton announced the MSU Day of Service.

ADJOURNED TIME 8:06 P.M.

CHRIS SWOPE, CITY CLERK