



Effingham County Board
101 N. 4th Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL
217.342.4990

24-13

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT EFFINGHAM COUNTY WILL NOT SPEND OR ACCEPT LOCAL TAX DOLLARS ON THE IMMIGRATION CRISIS FOR MIGRANTS AND/OR ASYLUM SEEKERS ENTERING EFFINGHAM COUNTY

WHEREAS, The Effingham County Board understands that emergency circumstances or need may arise that warrants or requires unexpected and limited use of resources to deal with issues related to the immigration crisis; and

WHEREAS, there is a national immigration crisis at the border between the United States and Mexico where an unprecedented and overwhelming number of migrants and asylum seekers are crossing over the open border and entering the United States; and

WHEREAS, this immigration crisis involves a large influx of migrants and asylum seekers without family, jobs, housing or other resources, which has placed a significant demand on the resources needed to support these individuals in the communities in which they have arrived; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has failed or refused to adequately anticipate and react to the exigent and emergent circumstances, resulting in millions of migrants and asylum seekers traveling to the State of Illinois after entering into the United States; and

WHEREAS, the state government has failed or refused to adequately anticipate and properly react to the exigent and emergent circumstances, and continues extending a 30-day proclamation (first issued in September 2022) declaring Illinois a "welcoming state" and all counties in Illinois a disaster area as a result of the immigration crisis, giving broad executive power to the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Chicago, Brandon Johnson, in May 2023, issued an executive order establishing a "Deputy Mayor for Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights" to assist with efforts to address the immediate needs and programmatic goals to ensure the efficacy of Chicago's status as a welcoming and sanctuary city; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Johnson, although declaring Chicago as a sanctuary city, has failed and refused to adequately address the needs of such migrants and asylum seekers transferred to Chicago and has instead abdicated his duties and responsibilities to those migrants and asylum seekers, causing them to be transferred to other Illinois cities; and

WHEREAS, some bus services have been retained to drop off large numbers of these individuals – including children – without warning at unpredictable hours and in all weather conditions in a manner that leaves the individuals exposed to great risks, and the communities in which they arrive unprepared to assist them adequately; and

WHEREAS, there is no reason to believe after arriving here that any such migrants or asylum seekers will leave Effingham County, Illinois or that many more migrants and asylum seekers will not be transported to Effingham County, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Effingham County is not in a position to care for a large influx of individuals who do not have the resources to provide housing and other basic necessities for themselves; and

WHEREAS, all temporary housing shelter beds in Effingham County are currently at maximum capacity and/or do not exist and cannot accommodate additional homeless individuals; and

WHEREAS, there is a reasonable apprehension of immediate danger of public emergency of potentially thousands being transported to Effingham County and that Effingham County will be responsible for the cost of the public safety and the care of these persons and all others effected in Effingham County; and

WHEREAS, the Effingham County Board anticipates potential civil disobedience and protesting on this issue against the transportation of migrants and asylum seekers to Effingham County which would expend resources to this issue and take away from services to local Effingham County residents; and


WHEREAS, Effingham County tax dollars are budgeted to meet the needs of Effingham County residents and adding to the cost of public services, such as law enforcement, housing, food, and medical care, for a large number of migrants and asylum seekers would be detrimental to the budget needed to provide essential services for legal tax paying citizens; and

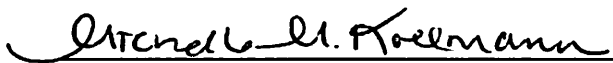
WHEREAS, Effingham County has inadequate infrastructure to meet the needs of migrants and asylum seekers including but not limited to transportation, food, and medical care; and

WHEREAS, there is reasonable apprehension of immediate danger thereof, that public safety is imperiled thereby, for the residents of Effingham County as well as the migrants and asylum seekers; and

WHEREAS, Effingham County does not have resources to establish itself as a sanctuary county; and

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY, ILLINOIS THAT: Absent emergency circumstances, Effingham County will not accept or provide tax payer funded services or dollars to migrants and/or asylum seekers as a result of the immigration crisis and emergency created by the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, and the Federal Government in failing to adequately prepare for and prevent the exponential increase of illegal migrants and/or asylum seekers entering the United States of America who travel into the State of Illinois or County of Effingham.


Joshua Douthit, County Board Chairman


Michelle Kollmann, County Clerk and Recorder