

FILE OF THE CITY OF CLERK

ADMINISTRATION RESOLUTION NO. 37 - 2023

INTRODUCED – MAY 9, 2023

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL –

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF LANCASTER'S COMMITMENT TO WELCOME TO OUR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY, AS EVIDENCE BY ITS RECERTIFICATION AS A WELCOMING CITY BY THE NATIONAL WELCOME AMERICA INITIATIVE AND REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO SAFETY AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CITY SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Lancaster has welcomed immigrants since its founding in 1742; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lancaster has opposed discrimination based on race and national origin since 1964 and codified that position by ordinance in 1991 codifying the requirement that neither the City nor its employees discriminate against individuals based on immigration status; and

WHEREAS, fostering a welcoming environment and treating all individuals with compassion and respect, regardless of race, ethnicity, place of origin, or citizenship status strengthen the social, civic, and economic fabric of our city; and

WHEREAS, Lancaster is a welcoming, safe community where people, families live and where they are celebrated and valued; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Neighborhood Engagement work is central to building community among immigrants and neighbors achieving recertification as a Welcoming City by the National Welcoming America Initiative in conjunction with numerous dedicated and committed partners; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lancaster currently exceeds the national standard outlined by Welcoming America, and commits itself to continue to surpass the standard, and maintain its certification; and

WHEREAS, Officials and employees of the City of Lancaster do and are required to treat all persons equally and without regard to race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or ability to speak English; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lancaster ensures access to services by implementing a language access plan which we continue to expand, through technology and training for our staff and ensuring accessible communications is available to all of our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lancaster has ensured that all of the members of the Lancaster City Police, Fire, and Housing Bureaus have been trained in trauma-informed practices; and

WHEREAS, the Lancaster City Bureau of Police and its members do not intervene in federal immigration matters and only cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement when required by applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lancaster Police Bureau acknowledges that the enforcement of civil federal immigration laws falls exclusively within the authority of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, it the intent of the City of Lancaster Police Bureau, to encourage crime reporting and cooperation in the investigation of criminal activity, that all persons, regardless of their actual or

perceived citizenship or immigration status, should feel secure that contacting or being addressed by members of the Lancaster City Police Bureau will not lead to an immigration inquiry; and

WHEREAS, the Lancaster City Police Bureau is embarking on a complete overhaul of its policies, which will include policies incorporating its long standing practice of only cooperating with federal immigration enforcement as required by law and protecting victims' rights; and

WHEREAS, the Welcoming City certification process continues to be a journey of improvement; and

WHEREAS, the City continuously looks to make improvements for how to best serve all of our residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved by the Council of the City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania that:

1. It is the City of Lancaster's intent to continue serving as a Welcoming City and to continuously look to make improvements for how to best serve all of our residents, including immigrants;
2. The City continue to take any and all necessary and reasonable steps to assure that its officials and employees treat all persons equally and without regard to race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or ability to speak English;
3. The Lancaster City Police Bureau codify in written policy its practices of not intervening in federal immigration matters and only cooperating with Immigration and Customs enforcement when required by applicable law as part of its above-referenced overhaul of police policies; and
4. That all such publicly releasable police policies be completed and made available for public review no later than March 31, 2024.

CITY OF LANCASTER

By: _____
Danene Sorace, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bernard W. Harris Jr., City Clerk