



RESOLUTION 71

A Resolution regarding the cruel and inhumane practice of separating children from parents at the U.S.-Mexico border and St. Louis City's affirmation of, and support for immigrants and refugees who live within its boundaries

WHEREAS, we as the City of Saint Louis Board of Aldermen acknowledge that we are a city of immigrants. As sure as it is wrong to separate families and detain children, we cannot separate our obligation to uphold the values of our great city and the constitution of this great nation, and we acknowledge and owe a debt to St. Louisans who continually work to make our city a better place to live, including St. Louis City Mayor William Becker, who was the child of German immigrants and served from 1941-1943, former St. Louis City Mayor Alfonso Cervantes, who was the first St. Louis City mayor of Hispanic origin and served from 1965-1973; and St. Louis City Mayor Francis Slay, who is the son of Lebanese and Polish immigrants and served from 2001-2017; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, St. Louis City declared itself a Welcoming City for immigrants, and we further recognize that we have entire neighborhoods of our city such as Bevo Mill, Gravois Park, and Dutchtown that have welcomed and been stabilized and rebuilt by immigrants and refugees including Vietnamese Americans, Latinx Americans, Bosnian Americans, and more from hundreds of countries. Our commercial districts, such as South Grand, Gravois, and Calle Cherokee have benefitted from their hard work, ingenuity, investment and enterprise. We appreciate that they and thousands of other immigrants and refugees resettled here in our region and have made St. Louis their home; and

WHEREAS, our flawed United States immigration laws and policies go back even to the founding of our nation where we declared some human beings inherently "less than" others in our Constitution, and we acknowledge America's racist naturalization policies throughout our history, including the disgraceful Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the rejection of the M.S. St. Louis, a ship of Jewish refugees from Europe who were refused entry to the U.S. during WWII, of which hundreds were later killed in Nazi Concentration Camps; and the internment of Japanese-American families during WWII which caused irreparable harm to families and children. We acknowledge the horrors of these practices; and

WHEREAS, faith and lay leaders from many diverse religions and traditions, advocates for human rights, and citizens and people of good will alike have lifted their voices in righteous moral opposition to separating families and detaining thousands of children in cages, tents, and "tender age" shelters, and have condemned the use of these children as bargaining chips for Congressional action, and are calling for the immediate reunification of families and release from detention; and

WHEREAS, we believe in the dignity and worth of all humans, and as elected representatives of the people, have a special responsibility speak out loudly in the face of dehumanizing anti-immigrant rhetoric and to act against actions that tear families apart.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we as the City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen stand alongside our immigrant neighbors and residents and oppose the practice of family separation and the detention of children, and oppose the use of Missouri taxpayer dollars to fund this practice, particularly since many families are fleeing dangerous situations including pervasive violence, severe poverty, and the threat of death in their originating countries; and

BE IT RESOLVED that we call on Governor Mike Parson to refuse to allow Missouri and St. Louis taxpayer resources to be used in any way to further these inhumane policies, and we ask Governor Parson to recall the Missouri National Guard from the U.S. border immediately, as governors from both political parties have already done; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on our leaders in Washington D.C., including Senator Roy Blunt, Senator Claire McCaskill, and Congressman Lacy Clay to oppose this practice of family separation and support clean legislation that honors the dignity of all, ends the practice of detention while immigrants await asylum hearings, and does not further disrupt legal immigration processes and or unjustly punish immigrants.

Introduced this 22nd day of June, 2018 by:

The Honorable Annie Rice Alderwoman 8th Ward

The Honorable Lisa Middlebrook, Alderwoman 2nd Ward
The Honorable Brandon Bosley, Alderman 3rd Ward
The Honorable Christine Ingrassia, Alderwoman 6th Ward
The Honorable John J. Coatar, Alderman 7th Ward
The Honorable Dan Guenther, Alderman 9th Ward
The Honorable Sarah Wood Martin, Alderwoman 11th Ward
The Honorable Larry Arnowitz, Alderman 12th Ward
The Honorable Beth Murphy, Alderwoman 13th Ward
The Honorable Carol Howard, Alderwoman 14th Ward
The Honorable Megan E. Green, Alderwoman 15th Ward
The Honorable Tom Oldenburg, Alderman 16th Ward
The Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
The Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
The Honorable Cara Spencer, Alderwoman 20th Ward
The Honorable John Collins-Muhammad, 21st Ward
The Honorable Jeffrey Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward
The Honorable Joseph Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward
The Honorable Scott Ogilvie, Alderman 24th Ward
The Honorable Shane Cohn, Alderman, 25th Ward
The Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
The Honorable Pam Boyd, Alderwoman 27th Ward
The Honorable Heather Navarro, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this 22nd day of June, 2018 as attested by:

Louis C. Galli
Legal Counsel, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen