



RESOLUTION NO. 2018- 161
June 19, 2018

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING SEPARATION OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI that:

WHEREAS, Chapter 58, Article V, Section 58-200 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Ypsilanti provides, in part, that it is the policy of the City of Ypsilanti to respect the rights of all persons, regardless immigration status, promote community safety, and to promote acceptance; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2018, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced a "zero-tolerance policy" and commitment to criminal immigration enforcement pursuant to 8 USC § 1325(a); and

WHEREAS, since this policy announcement, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has treated the minors of adults prosecuted under 8 USC § 1325(a) as "unaccompanied alien children" under federal law; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Department Homeland Security estimates that 1,995 minors traveling with 1,940 adults, were so processed during six weeks between April and May and by all accounts continues today; and

WHEREAS, this treatment of children and families, which has drawn strong criticism from national legislators, political figures, former first ladies, and religious leaders from both major political parties and across the political spectrum, is not only against the values of the City of Ypsilanti, as provided in its previously stated policy, but is inhumane and runs counter to the values of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump and members of his administration have called for this policy and practice to be ended by an act of the U.S. Congress rather than reverting to previous procedures; and

WHEREAS, reforms to U.S. immigration laws have been debated for decades and the cries of traumatized children separated from their families should not be used as a tool to address this issue;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council for the City of Ypsilanti adds its voice to others to condemn and decry the policy of separating immigrant children from their families and to call upon the White House, U.S. Congress, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Homeland Security to end this cruel and barbaric practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to President Donald Trump, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, and Representative Debbie Dingell.

OFFERED BY: Council Member Richardson

SUPPORTED BY: Council Member Murdock

Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1 (Vogt) Vote: Carried

I do hereby certify that the above resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution 2018-161 as passed by the Ypsilanti City Council, at their meeting held on June 19, 2018.


Frances McMullan, City Clerk