



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County**

**Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

**Wednesday, January 27, 2021**

**11:00 AM**

**Virtual Meeting**

**NOTICE AND AGENDA**

There will be a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County at the date, time and location listed above to consider the following:

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Due to the current health crisis, there is no in-person participation for the County Board meetings. The President and Commissioners will participate remotely. The public can observe the livestream <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings>

The public can still testify to the Committee Meetings. Only written comment will be accepted for those wishing to provide Public Testimony. Written comments provided prior to the start of the meeting will be read aloud at the meeting. Three minutes per comment will be allowed, though every effort will be made to read statements in their entirety. If you have additional material for the Board to consider, please email testimony to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov) and indicate a desire that your testimony be entered into the record. All written comment which complies with County Board Rules will be posted online.

[21-1099](#)

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 12/16/2020

[21-0495](#)

**Sponsored by:** ALMA E. ANAYA, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, LUIS ARROYO JR and BRIDGET DEGNEN, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**COOK COUNTY CALLS UPON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO PROTECT THE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY AND STRENGTHEN THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES**

**WHEREAS**, the United States is a nation of diverse immigrants; and

**WHEREAS**, one in seven individuals residing in the United States are immigrants according to 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) data; and

**WHEREAS**, a strong and vibrant community cannot function until all people living and working, regardless of their race, skin color, national origin, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, or place of birth, have equal rights and protections under the law; and

**WHEREAS**, the country's already flawed immigration system has been further damaged in recent years which has encouraged and normalized discrimination and harassment against the immigrant community; and

**WHEREAS**, the current system has forced the separation of thousands of families seeking asylum including nursing mothers from their young children. According to a recent communication received by the United States Department of Justice, nearly 700 children have yet to be reunited with their parents; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been attempted through Executive Order to end protections under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program for nearly 800,000 individuals who came to the United States with their families as children; and

**WHEREAS**, these individuals should be properly recognized as members of our country, in many instances the only country they have ever known. Instead, the existing federal administration's attempts to end DACA have created panic and distress in the DACA-eligible community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Muslim Ban has restricted travel from targeted nations with predominantly Muslim populations, leading to family separation, discrimination, and injustice; and

**WHEREAS**, furthermore, these inhumane policies have caused post-traumatic stress among other serious mental health harms; and

**WHEREAS**, as the ongoing pandemic has disproportionately impacted immigrant communities across the country, the current federal administration has continued to implement anti-immigrant policies like public charge that discourage immigrant families from seeking medical services and other essential resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic has also been used as a pretext to shut down refugee resettlement and other immigration to the United States.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners calls upon the Biden administration and the 117th Congress to protect the human rights of immigrants through, but not limited to, the following means:

1. Immediately rescinding the numerous executive orders, proclamations, and other policy changes that the current federal administration has used to confuse, intimidate, exclude, and remove immigrants;
2. Providing access to adequate healthcare, affordable housing, and vital social services by removing restrictions that have excluded vulnerable segments of the immigrant community;
3. Enacting inclusive immigration solutions that include:
  - a. An immediate reinstatement of recently gutted refugee and asylum programs;
  - b. Legislation prioritizing path to citizenship for the undocumented population in the United States;
  - c. Separating the criminal justice and immigration systems;
  - d. Ending federal support of for-profit detention facilities and the use of local jails for detaining immigrants;
  - e. Prioritization of alternatives to detention in the immigration adjudication process.
4. Immediately reuniting the nearly 700 children with their parents who were separated at the border, and provide the necessary counseling and trauma-informed care for the children and their immediate family members that have been impacted by the inhumane “zero tolerance” policy;
5. Working directly with impacted immigrant communities and advocates to develop and implement pro-immigrant policies and legislation to begin the long process of rebuilding the trust between the immigrant community and the federal government that has been undermined during the last several years;
6. Implementing transparent, robust oversight, and accountability measures for the abuse that has been reported within immigration detention centers;
7. Divesting from immigration enforcement, detention, and deportation infrastructure and instead investing in initiatives that uphold the rights of immigrants and empower them to thrive.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT**, suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the Biden administration and the 117th Congress.

**Legislative History :** 12/17/20 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Legislation and Intergovernmen

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew B. DeLeon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

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Secretary

Chairman: Suffredin  
Vice-Chairman: Britton  
Members: Committee of the Whole