

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10TH FLOOR
LANSING CITY HALL
124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE**



AGENDA FOR APRIL 3, 2017

TO THE HON. MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

Pursuant to Section 3-202.1 of the City Charter, Council President Spitzley and Vice President Wood have called a special meeting of the City Council on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 10th Floor, City Hall.

I. ROLL CALL

II. MEDITATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. SPEAKER REGISTRATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS (The public may comment for up to three minutes. *Speakers must sign up on white form.*)

V. COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

A. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

1. Reaffirmation of a Welcoming City

VI. MOTION OF EXCUSED ABSENCE

VII. REMARKS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

VII. REMARKS BY THE MAYOR OR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chris Swope

CHRIS SWOPE, CITY CLERK

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (517) 483-4131 (TDD (517) 483-4479). 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.

BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, Lansing fosters a culture and environment that makes it a vibrant, global city where our immigrant and refugee residents can fully participate in and be integrated into the social, civic and economic fabric of Lansing; and

WHEREAS, the issue of immigration is essentially one of basic human rights, exemplified by the growing number of communities passing resolutions seeking to protect immigrants' rights; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lansing has a long history of commitment to preserving civil rights and liberties, regardless of immigrant or refugee status; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in fourteen (7.95%) Lansing residents is foreign born with fifty-one different native languages spoken by the student population of the Lansing School District; and

WHEREAS, Lansing benefits tremendously from the large number of diverse immigrants and refugees who contribute to the development of a culturally and economically diverse and enriched community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lansing is committed to recognizing the dignity of all its residents, including the rights of all Lansing residents to live in a City that does not subject them to prejudicial treatment or discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Lansing is committed to continue building a welcoming, safe and hate-free environment in communities, where all immigrants and refugees are welcomed, accepted, and integrated, and to encourage business leaders, civic groups, community institutions, and residents to join in community wide effort to adopt policies and practices that promote integration, inclusion and equity; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Lansing City Council adopted a resolution expressing concerns about the USA Patriot Act being used to deny or abuse individuals' civil rights and liberties based on ethnicity, religion, or immigrant status; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Lansing City Council adopted a Human Rights Ordinance (HRO) that protects members of our community from discrimination based on a number of irrelevant factors, including race, religion, ancestry, and national origin, and later amended the HRO to expand protections and strengthen the complaint process; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the City of Lansing became one of twelve counties, cities, and townships across Michigan designated "welcoming communities" for refugees and immigrants; and

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WHEREAS, the Council rebukes any effort by the United States government unconstitutionally discriminate against persons based on their country of origin, immigration status, or religion or to mischaracterize foreign-born persons as public safety threats; and

WHEREAS, a common thread among all these communities, regardless of the label we adopt, is our desire to create a safe, welcoming environment for immigrants and refugees by adopting policies that build trust and encourage unguarded interactions with local officials; and

WHEREAS, an increasingly hostile anti-immigrant and racist atmosphere is being promoted by a vocal minority that represents neither American values nor the majority of our citizenry; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order targeting undocumented immigrants and threatening to withhold federal funding from any unit of government the Secretary of Homeland Security designates as a “sanctuary” jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bernero released a statement declaring he “stand[s] with the thousands of immigrants and refugees who have resettled in Lansing”; and

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder said he is “going to continue to promote Michigan as a welcoming place for immigrants”; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the US Conference of Mayors and the President of the Major Cities [Police] Chiefs Association released a joint statement reinforcing the idea that “immigrants residing in our cities must be able to trust the police and all of city government”; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Lansing City Council agree that welcoming policies build trust and make communities safer by encouraging cooperation among immigrants and city departments and alleviating the fear of deportation that often prevents undocumented immigrants from reporting crime (as victims) and coming forward with information to assist investigators (as witnesses); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Lansing City Council stand united in our commitment to the just treatment and equal protection of all residents, regardless of their country of origin or immigration status.

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Lansing recommits its policy to be a Welcoming City by reaffirming the City of Lansing as a Welcoming City that promotes policies and programs to foster inclusion for all, and serves its residents regardless of their immigration or refugee status, race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political ideology, disability, homelessness, low-income or veteran status, and reaffirming the City's continuing commitment to advocate and support the wellbeing of all residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Lansing City Council encourages our officials, officers and employees to inspire trust among all residents, especially members of Lansing's immigrant and refugee communities, by maintaining confidential reporting and information gathering without concern for national origin or immigrant status.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, the City Council stands with their regional partners reaffirming that City of Lansing is a Welcoming City for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Lansing City Council supports the City of Lansing challenging, to the greatest extent permitted by law, efforts by the state or federal government to require our police officers to enforce federal immigration laws because doing so would irreparably damage the trust between our police officers and our citizens. Such actions would also diminish the time and resources our police officers spend responding to citizen calls for service, conducting investigations and engaging in targeted efforts to reduce violent crime. If necessary, the Council supports the City's pursuit of all available legal remedies to enjoin or void any state or federal action that would redirect the City's law enforcement resources toward immigration-related matters.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Lansing City Council stand united in sustaining Lansing's culture of diversity and inclusion by welcoming and supporting immigrants and refugees from all nationalities, religions, and backgrounds with policies and programs that foster inclusion for all. When possible, Lansing elected officials and employees shall support the efforts of elected officials and staff in local jurisdictions throughout Michigan in developing policies protecting vulnerable populations whose rights may be abrogated and interests harmed by those hostile to maintaining or expanding protections to these communities and who would unconstitutionally and illegally misuse the power of the federal government to do so.

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