

**BOROUGH OF RED BANK
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH
RESOLUTION NO. 21-28**

**RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS
TO REUNIFY IMMIGRANT FAMILIES, RELEASE THEM FROM DETENTION
AND AFFORD THEM DUE PROCESS IN IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Red Bank has a long and proud history of welcoming immigrants of all backgrounds into our community; and

WHEREAS, other than Native American communities indigenous to this land, we are all descendants of people who migrated or were brought as slaves to America from other parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, over the course of centuries, immigrants to the United States have contributed to the very fabric of the country through their work across various sectors; and

WHEREAS, research and studies have confirmed that our diversity makes us stronger, and thus the diverse and immigrant communities that make up the United States are an asset; and

WHEREAS, the United States has had a long and proud history of welcoming immigrants, and providing asylum to those fleeing violence or persecution in their countries of origin; and

WHEREAS, the United States has historically served as an international leader in protecting refugees and advocating for human rights; and

WHEREAS, the treatment of immigrants and the separation of children from their parents at the border and in the interior of the country is inhumane, unconstitutional, and goes against the United States' long-standing ideal of upholding and advocating for human rights; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 2,000 immigrants detained in the state who cannot afford a lawyer, and as immigration arrests rise across the state, guaranteeing due process and access to legal representation has become all the more urgent; and

WHEREAS, immigrant families and their children are detained in unacceptable conditions, in many cases without adequate food, water, or access to necessary hygiene and sanitary products; and

WHEREAS, the unsanitary conditions and lack of access to adequate health care is causing migrant men, women, and children in these detention centers to get sick and seven children have died after being in Border Patrol custody; and

WHEREAS, the US has held nearly 70,000 immigrant children in detention in 2019, and minors detained without their parents in these detention centers often receive inadequate education, mental health services, and other care; and over 1,000 children per year have been sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, reporting from both national and statewide agencies and news outlets reveals that these facilities are not safe for housing large numbers of people for extended periods of time as they are presently being used; and

WHEREAS, the DHS Office of the Inspector General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have documented inhumane conditions at detention facilities, including children without access to essential medication, and living in frigid temperatures; and

WHEREAS, in the last year, the United States Congress allowed a transfer of over \$200 million from other DHS agencies like the Coast Guard and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to bail out ICE's overspending in their attempt to build more detention centers and incarcerate more immigrants; and,

WHEREAS, the DHS Office of the Inspector General has also issued two reports detailing "egregious violations of detention standards" at Essex County Correctional Facility; and

WHEREAS, the detention of immigrants and their children during the COVID-19 pandemic has and will cause irreversible damage to the health, well-being and very lives of immigrants and their families; and

WHEREAS, due to the lack of personal protective equipment, the inability to properly quarantine and isolate infected individuals in overcrowded centers, there is a significant health risk posed to immigrants in detention centers in facilities where they cannot practice social distancing or heightened hygiene and must use shared spaces and items during this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these conditions not only put people who are detained at risk, but also corrections officers and civilian staff who work in the facilities and the communities to which they return daily; and

WHEREAS, immigrants infected with COVID-19 have died in detention centers by being denied basic health care and the ability to seek treatment; and

WHEREAS, ICE's response to COVID-19 has been inadequate – in addition to ignoring the health crisis within facilities, they are also putting the public health of all communities at risk by transferring

people across the country and overseas, including moving people from pandemic hot spots to detention centers with fewer documented cases of COVID-19 - it's vital that they immediately release people from detention to protect their lives, and to flatten the curve; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants who are living in the community have also been impacted by COVID-19 due to job losses and not being able to access adequate healthcare with no means to seek economic relief due to structural barriers to government relief programs; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants do not have access to necessary services in their communities such as housing and legal services which impacts them adversely even if they are released from detention as they cannot meet basic primary needs such as shelter and food; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Red Bank that:

Section 1. As public officials elected to represent the values of the Borough of Red Bank community in the State of New Jersey, we condemn the inhumane treatment of immigrants at our borders and in the interior of the country especially during the COVID-19 pandemic which creates a breeding ground for disease in detention centers and places immigrants at significant risk.

Section 2. We affirm that as history and law have dictated, all men, women, and children who come to our borders have a right to due process and to the full and fair opportunity to seek protection in the United States.

Section 3. We call upon the Borough of Red Bank's Members of Congress, Chris Smith and Sens. Robert Menendez and Cory Booker, to call for an end to immigration detention in the United States, the immediate reunification of immigrant families and the release of migrant children and parents from detention, and also to afford these families due process by allowing them the full and fair opportunity to seek protection from the United States.

Section 4. We call upon the Borough of Red Bank's Congressman/woman, Representative Chris Smith to take immediate action to cut funding to the border militarization and detention in the congressional appropriations process.

Section 5. We call upon the State of New Jersey, all counties that hold immigrant detainees, and the federal government to protect the rights and safety of all detained immigrants and allow for meaningful civilian oversight of county jails and immigration detention centers.

Section 6. We call upon the State of New Jersey and all counties that hold immigrant detainees to fully fund a universal legal services program that guarantees every indigent immigrant in detention access to quality legal representation;

Section 7. We call upon the Borough of Red Bank's Members of Congress, Chris Smith and Sens. Robert Menendez and Cory Booker to make pandemic related economic relief programs accessible to undocumented immigrants.

Section 8. The Borough of Red Bank approves the establishment of a local relief fund to provide economic relief to undocumented immigrants impacted by the pandemic;

Section 9. The Borough of Red Bank hereby makes essential township/city services such as housing immediately accessible to undocumented immigrants who require them;

Section 10. We direct the Municipal Clerk to send a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, to the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Assemblywoman Joann Downey, Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling, State Senator Vin Gopal, Governor Phil Murphy, Congressman Chris Smith, Senator Robert Menendez, Senator Cory Booker and President Donald J. Trump.

	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Yassin		X			
Councilwoman Triggiano	Motion	X			
Councilman Ballard		X			
Councilman Yngstrom		X			
Councilman Zipprich	Second	X			
Councilwoman Horgan		X			

Dated: January 13, 2021