

COUNTY OF OSWEGO
STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF OSWEGO) ss.:

Pursuant to New York State Executive Law, Article 2-B, a local State of Emergency is hereby proclaimed and continued within a portion of the territorial limits of the County of Oswego, effective May 15th, 2023.

WHEREAS, there is a national immigration crisis at the border between the United States and Mexico in that unprecedented and overwhelming numbers of migrants and asylum seekers are crossing over the open border of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government has failed or refused to anticipate and react to the exigent and emergent circumstances, resulting in thousands of migrants and asylum seekers crossing the U.S. border; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Texas has seen fit to relocate thousands of migrants and asylum seekers crossing the Texas border to New York City, rather than address issues presented to its state and/or the Federal government; and

WHEREAS, although New York City has been declared a sanctuary city, it has failed and refused to adequately and humanely address the needs of such migrants and asylum seekers transferred to New York City, and, instead, the city has decided to, transfer its duties and responsibilities to the other counties adjacent to New York City; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief, City of New York is advertising and printing brochures for migrants and asylum seekers promoting long-term housing solutions in at least one or more county or counties for at least four months and which is believed will be longer, if not permanent; and

WHEREAS, according to the promotional brochures by New York City, migrants/asylum seekers will also receive medical care, food, laundry and other necessities, only initially to be funded by the City of New York as an inducement to relocate; and

WHEREAS, by way of example, New York City has represented to Orange County officials that approximately only 60 adult male migrant and/or asylum seekers will be transported to Orange County but Orange County has since learned that the City of New York has also sought to house additional hundreds of migrants and/or asylum seekers at additional locations without notifying Orange County, and, as a result, Orange County has publicly stated it can no longer rely on the representations of New York City officials; and

WHEREAS, should a similar situation occur here and asylum seekers and/or migrants are

transported to Oswego County, there is no reason to believe that these individuals will leave Oswego County after New York City ceases to pay for the housing and any services they are presently receiving in New York City, or that many more migrants or asylum seekers will not be transported to Oswego County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Oswego and its municipalities lack the resources and personnel to humanely house, educate and look after migrants and asylum seekers as many municipalities are experiencing homelessness within their borders at present; and

WHEREAS, there is reasonable apprehension of immediate danger of public emergency of potentially hundreds of persons being transported to Oswego County and that Oswego County will be responsible for the welfare and public safety of these persons together with all others affected thereby in Oswego County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Oswego is a rural county and is not capable of receiving and humanely sustaining such volume of migrants and asylum seekers that New York City may intend to, or hereafter does, transport to the County, whose presence will spike the number of people in need of government services at all levels of government in the County; and

WHEREAS, there is no legal basis to provide adequate services to these migrants or asylum seekers by the County's Department of Social Services because of their age and immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the County of Oswego also anticipates the potential for civil disobedience and protesting on this issue both for and against the transportation of migrants/asylum seekers to Oswego County; and

WHEREAS, local zoning codes do not allow the use of temporary residence hotels or other temporary residence facilities for use as long-term residential housing and, therefore, New York City's transportation of migrants and asylum seekers to Oswego County for that purpose would be unlawful; and

WHEREAS, through enforcement of local zoning codes, migrants and/or asylum seekers may face refusal, or eviction from the illegal hotels and short-term residential facilities, resulting in large-scale homelessness for these migrants and asylum seekers compounding the existing homelessness problems in the City of Oswego and City of Fulton; and

WHEREAS, temporary housing shelter beds in Oswego County are currently at maximum capacity and cannot accommodate additional homeless individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Oswego County has inadequate infrastructure to meet the needs of large groups of migrants and/or asylum seekers, including, but not limited to, work opportunities, transportation to work, food, medical care, and pharmaceutical opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the county is unaware of any lasting reimbursement from the City of New York for expenses which may be incurred as a result of New York City's program to move asylum seekers

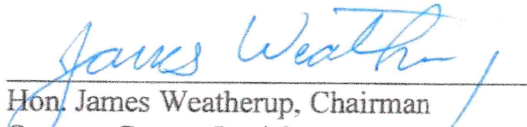
to other counties; and

WHEREAS, due to the above circumstances, I find a reasonable apprehension of immediate danger thereof that public safety is imperiled thereby, for not only migrant and asylum seekers which may be relocated to this county, but also for the residents of Oswego County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby declare, in order to protect life and property, a State of Emergency within the territorial limits of the County of Oswego and will issue subsequent Emergency Orders when, and as may be, necessary and proper.

I FURTHER FIND this State of Emergency does not in any way impact travel or County employees or County operations, is not weather related, and does not suspend County operations. This State of Emergency Declaration shall take effect immediately, be filed and published as required by law, and individually expire as required by law.

This State of Emergency shall continue for thirty (30) days unless rescinded or amended by subsequent declaration or order.



Hon. James Weatherup, Chairman
Oswego County Legislature

L.S. Dated: May 15, 2023