Legal Counsel Approval _____

RL 17-054

Introductory No. R17-32

Permanent No. R17-31

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BINGHAMTON
STATE OF NEW YORK

Date: February 22, 2017

Sponsored by Council Members: Mihalko, Matzo, Papastrat, Scaringi, Cronce, Scanlon, Taylor

Introduced by Committee: Municipal Public Affairs

RESOLUTION
entitled
A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY OF BINGHAMTON'S SUPPORT OF LEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES AND ENCOURAGING PROGRAMS TO FOSTER INCLUSION, EQUALITY, AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Binghamton ("Binghamton") fosters a culture and environment that makes it a vibrant city where our immigrant and refugee residents can fully participate in and be integrated into the social, civic, and economic fabrics of Binghamton; and

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

WHEREAS, in Binghamton's 150 year history, it has always been and will continue to be a welcoming city. Scores of elected officials and City employees have been sons and daughters of immigrants, and elected leaders have been foreign born or first generation immigrants themselves; and

WHEREAS, Binghamton shall serve all residents and make city services accessible to all, and city agencies and law enforcement cannot withhold services based on ancestry, race, ethnicity, national origin, color, immigration status or religion; and

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

WHEREAS, since 1939, the American Civic Association of Binghamton ("ACA"), has been committed to helping immigrants and refugees start a new life in our community, while preserving their cultural ethnic diversity; and

WHEREAS, for more than 75 years, the ACA has provided immigration and refugee resettlement services, language and general education classes, as well as cultural and ethnic preservation; and

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WHEREAS, the ACA continually serves as a beacon of hope in the long and arduous process of legal immigration and resettlement, despite extraordinary and calamitous events in its own history, thus, serving as a model for Binghamton residents and all Americans in this effort; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is a collaborative effort, including contributions from this Council, the Mayor, local stakeholders, and a coalition of concerned citizens, now speaking with one voice in support of legal immigrants and refugees; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Binghamton, duly convened in regular session, does hereby:

RESOLVE that:

Section 1. The City of Binghamton will celebrate its diversity by welcoming and supporting legal immigrants and refugees from all nationalities, religions, and backgrounds, fostering inclusion for all.

Section 2. The City of Binghamton's elected officials and employees shall support the efforts of local immigration services, such as the American Civic Association of Binghamton, in developing educational, public outreach, and cultural awareness programs regarding immigration and refugee policies.

Section 3. The City of Binghamton shall seek guidance from state and federal lawmakers in finding solutions to improve and protect legal immigration and refugee programs, ensuring Binghamton's continued status as a melting pot community.

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The within Resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Binghamton.

2/22/17
Date

Leighton A. Thagens
City Clerk

2/23/17
Date Presented to Mayor

2/23/17
Date Approved

Mayor

	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Scaringi	✓			
Councilwoman Cronce	✓			
Councilman Taylor	✓			
Councilman Papastrat	✓			
Councilman Matzo	✓			
Councilman Scanlon	✓			
Councilman Mihalko	✓			
Total	7	0	0	0

☐ Code of the City of Binghamton

☑ Adopted ☐ Defeated

7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Abstain 0 Absent

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Binghamton at a meeting held on 2/22/17. Approved by the Mayor on 2/23/17.