



Resolution No. 2020R-394

City of Minneapolis

File No. 2020-01286

Author: Jenkins

Committee: None

Public Hearing: None

Passage: Dec 18, 2020

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RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE				
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Bender	X			
Jenkins	X			
Johnson	X			
Gordon	X			
Reich	X			
Fletcher	X			
Cunningham	X			
Ellison	X			
Osman	X			
Goodman	X			
Cano	X			
Schroeder	X			
Palmisano	X			

MAYOR ACTION

APPROVED

VETOED

MAYOR FREY

DEC 22 2020

DATE

Certified an official action of the City Council

ATTEST

CITY CLERK

Presented to Mayor: DEC 18 2020

Received from Mayor: DEC 22 2020

**Recognizing International Migrants Day in honor of the contributions and challenges faced by migrants in the United States and abroad.**

Whereas, in 1997, Filipino and other Asian migrant organizations began celebrating and promoting December 18 as the International Day of Solidarity with Migrants, chosen because it was on December 18, 1990, that the United Nations adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and

Whereas, International Migrants Day aims to raise awareness about the efforts, contributions and human rights of migrants worldwide, as well as the challenges and difficulties of international resettlement; and

Whereas, throughout human history, migration has been integral for individuals and families to overcome adversity in search of a better life and greater opportunity, which has spurred development and created improvements to economic and social conditions across the globe; and

Whereas, migrants make significant contributions, including bringing their culture, new skills and knowledge to destination locations, and also sending remittances (money) to family and friends back home, therein offering valuable support to not only their destination locations but also their locations of origin; and

Whereas, in 2020, despite a highly contagious and lethal, global coronavirus pandemic, there are over 16,000 migrants or non-citizens around the country detained in immigration custody by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) unit of the Department of Homeland Security. These individuals are not in jail serving time as punishment for a crime committed but instead due to their lack of immigration status; and

Whereas, there are five county jails holding immigration detainees in Minnesota in cooperation with ICE, including Kandiyohi, Freeborn, Sherburne, Carver and Nobles county jails; and

Whereas, earlier this year a team of physicians wrote to the Department of Homeland Security and members of the US Congress on the COVID-19 threat posed by immigration detention and the "imminent risk to the health and safety of immigrant detainees, as well as the public at large, that is a direct consequence of detaining populations in congregate settings"; and

Whereas, six months ago, Mayor Jacob Frey wrote a letter to ICE asking for the immediate release of individuals in immigration detention in county jail facilities in the State of Minnesota who do not pose a risk to public safety to reduce the impact and spread of COVID-19 within this population as well as the public at large; and

Whereas, at the time of these letters, there were zero reported cases of COVID-19 among ICE detainees in Minnesota; and

Whereas, early in the pandemic, Minnesota facilities were spared COVID cases, by summer there was a smattering of COVID cases in Minnesota facilities holding immigration detainees, and, as of December 16, 2020, there are 21 ICE-confirmed COVID-19 cases among immigration detainees in custody at Kandiyohi County alone; and

Whereas, without transparency and access to adequate testing, regular medical care and accurate medical information relating to COVID transmissions in detention, it is impossible to truly know the scope of the outbreak of COVID cases in Kandiyohi County Jail or in any other jail holding immigration detainees in the state of Minnesota; and

Whereas, individuals who are in immigration custody and subject to quarantine have limited access to counsel, have little to no control over access to health care, and are at the mercy of their jailers for release of medical records and access to accurate health information; and

Whereas, human rights violations are often founded as a result of indefinite detention, including harm to mental and physical health, with the impacts of indefinite detention affecting not only the detainees themselves, but their families and communities as well;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby recognize the courage, perseverance and contributions of migrants, denounce the actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain migrants and non-citizens due to issues around immigration status during a global health crisis, and call upon all federal state and local agencies involved in the detention of immigrants in county jail facilities in the State of Minnesota to:

1. Facilitate the immediate release of individuals in immigration custody in various county jail facilities in the State of Minnesota including Sherburn, Carver, Freeborn, Kandiyohi and Nobles county jails, in consideration of the concept of liberty as a fundamental constitutional norm;
2. Ensure that individuals detained in immigration custody have access to accurate health information and competent and effective health care;
3. Facilitate the immediate development of an oversight mechanism staffed by experienced health care professionals so that detainees themselves as well as the public can be assured that individuals in immigration detention are receiving adequate health care;
4. As immigration detainees represent a nonvoluntary congregate setting community, facilitate the provision of COVID-19 vaccine to this detained population in an expedited fashion; and
5. Identify and implement any and all alternatives to detention that may exist so as to limit the human rights violations that result from indefinite detention of migrants, who comprise a class of individuals subject to incarceration solely because of their lack of secure immigration status.