

WHEREAS, Pittsburgh is a welcoming city where diversity, inclusion, and tolerance are cherished. Our city is home to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from diverse backgrounds who have helped to transform our economy and reinvigorate our neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, since taking office, the Trump Administration has implemented several policies that directly contradict American values of liberty, justice, diversity, and respect for all; and,

WHEREAS, hateful rhetoric and anti-immigrant policies originating from the White House are dividing our country, separating families, and leading to the inhumane treatment of asylum seekers, immigrants, refugees, and others seeking a better life in America; and,

WHEREAS, due to a new policy implemented by United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the United States Department of Justice is denying asylum to and even detaining victims of rape, domestic violence, and gang violence. The policy sets a dangerous precedent for tens of thousands of people, especially women, who under the new policy can now be deported back to violent and abusive situations in their native countries; and,

WHEREAS, under a new rule issued by the United States Departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security, the Trump Administration would be permitted to detain immigrant children with their parents indefinitely while they await a hearing, a process that can take months. Previously, under the Flores Agreement, which would be terminated under this new rule, the federal government was only allowed to detain immigrant children for twenty days; and,

WHEREAS, earlier in 2018, the Trump Administration eliminated Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for over 300,000 individuals hailing from countries suffering from disease, famine, war, violence, natural disasters, and other afflictions. The Trump Administration announced that it would terminate TPS for individuals from Honduras, Nepal, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Sudan, despite thousands of people who have become part of the American fabric will soon be sent back to dangerous and life-threatening situations in their native countries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby denounce the hateful rhetoric and anti-immigrant policies and calls on President Donald J. Trump and his Administration to honor the United States' commitment to grant asylum to individuals in life-threatening situations, reinstate the Flores Agreement to prevent the indefinite detention of immigrant children, and extend Temporary Protected Status to 300,000+ people in danger of deportation back to dangerous situations; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Will of Council shall be sent to President Donald J. Trump, United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions, United States Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, and United States Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen.

**Sponsored by Councilperson Erika Strassburger**