



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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PAUL M. WENDEL, JR.
County Executive

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY (Sustainable Migration)

I hereby declare, pursuant to Executive Law §24, a State of Emergency to exist in Chautauqua County.

WHEREAS, there is nothing humanitarian about a sanctuary city sending busloads of people to a County that does not have the infrastructure to care for them, especially since social services funding is not applicable to undocumented individuals; and

WHEREAS, over the past several months, thousands of asylum seekers have been arriving in New York City, from the Southern border, without having any immediate plans for shelter; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2016, the City of New York declared itself to be a “sanctuary city”, with the City Council finding that “The City will not abandon immigrant New Yorkers and we will support and defend their rights; and that “The City’s commitment to the rule of law and the protection of immigrant New Yorkers is deep and strong”; and

WHEREAS, the City of New York City Council’s sentiments have now failed in the face of reality of the Federal mismanagement of immigration at the border; and

WHEREAS, as recently as May 5, 2023, as a result of Federal policies and the sanctuary city policies of the government of the City of New York, the Mayor of the City of New York conceded that “the City now faces an unprecedented humanitarian crisis that requires it to take extraordinary measures to meet the immediate needs of the asylum seekers while continuing to serve the tens of thousands of people who are currently using the NYS DHS Shelter System;” and

WHEREAS, New York City’s state of emergency is the result of being overwhelmed by the number of migrants and asylum seekers accepting the offer of sanctuary extended by New York City; and

WHEREAS, New York City has threatened to alleviate the problem it has created for itself by support for sanctuary city policies and the open boarder immigration policies of the Federal government

by shipping its problems to other counties throughout New York State, which may include Chautauqua County; and

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County-with a population, economy, and resources that are only a fraction of New York City's-is not capable of receiving and sustaining the volume of migrants and asylum seekers that New York City intends to send over, whose presence will spike the number of people in need of government services at all levels of government in the County from Villages to Towns and School Districts, and other services that require expenditure of local tax dollars with no aid from the Federal Government or the sanctuary city that instigated this issue; and

WHEREAS, there is no reason to believe that these migrants or asylum seekers will leave the County after New York City ceases to pay for the housing and any services they are presently receiving from New York City or that this will be the last time this kind of spike will occur; and

WHEREAS, Chautauqua County is already a diverse County with people of many backgrounds and identities, that freely helps all in need with programs for both documented and undocumented migrants; and

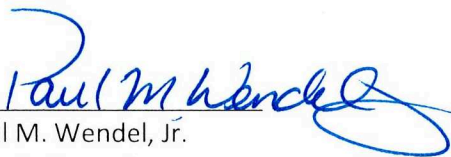
WHEREAS, already Chautauqua County is struggling with the natural and organic migration of people into the County, including low income housing shortages and school districts rapidly gaining population, stressing services without the unneeded, unnecessary, and unnatural spike in population New York City's program will cause by the mass transportation of asylum seeking persons to Chautauqua County; and

WHEREAS, the County and its various municipalities must be reimbursed by the City for any expenses incurred as a result of New York city's program to move asylum seekers to Chautauqua County; **now it is declared that**

A State of Emergency continues to exist in Chautauqua County, and

This local State of Emergency shall be effective as of May 18, 2023 and remain in effect for thirty days, and may be extended at that time.

Dated: May 18, 2023



Paul M. Wendel, Jr.
County Executive
County of Chautauqua