



A Proclamation
by the
President of the Board of Commissioners
Cook County, Illinois

WHEREAS, Cook County is nationally recognized as a leader in protecting immigrants' rights; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, Cook County has implemented a reform agenda that promotes social justice and fiscal responsibility while preserving public safety; and

WHEREAS, Cook County has over 5 million residents, a fifth of whom are born in other nations; and

WHEREAS, Cook County assures all individuals the same access to justice, regardless of their socio-economic status, education level, skin color, ZIP code, and immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court of Cook County is the largest judicial circuit in the State of Illinois and one of the largest unified court systems in the United States, and its focus is on delivering justice fairly and impartially to ensure confidence in the court system; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2018, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) issued a directive concerning civil immigration enforcement actions inside courthouses; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2018, a County resident with no prior criminal record was unlawfully detained by federal ICE agents at the Skokie Courthouse after appearing for a misdemeanor traffic violation, sending waves of fear through Cook County's immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, civil immigration enforcement actions within County courthouses severely undermine our efforts to promote trust between County residents and local law enforcement and encourage victims and witnesses of crime to come forward; and

WHEREAS, local law provides that unless ICE agents have a criminal warrant, ICE agents shall not be given access to individuals or allowed to use County facilities for investigative interviews or other purposes; and

WHEREAS, immigrant victims of crime who cooperate with law enforcement may be eligible for visas that allow them to remain in the U.S. legally; and

WHEREAS, ICE generally refrains from civil immigration enforcement actions at schools, hospitals, places of worship, sites of religious ceremonies, and sites of public demonstration, pursuant to its policy concerning enforcement action at sensitive locations; and

WHEREAS, the federal government's efforts to compel localities to aid in federal immigration enforcement by conducting civil immigration enforcement actions inside County courthouses threaten the safety of our residents by discouraging individuals from participating in the criminal justice process.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONI PRECKWINKLE, COOK COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT, do hereby proclaim that ICE should refrain from engaging in civil immigration enforcement actions within County courthouses as such actions compromise public safety and may deter individuals from participating in the criminal justice process, and request the President of the United States and the Illinois Congressional Delegation to support this proclamation and declare courthouses "sensitive locations" free from civil immigration enforcement actions.

Approved and adopted the 7th day of February, 2018

TONI PRECKWINKLE, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners