

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING AND CONDEMNING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY OF FORCIBLY SEPARATING MINOR CHILDREN FROM THEIR PARENTS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE WHITE HOUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2018, the Trump Administration announced its official "zero-tolerance policy" ("Policy") calling for the prosecution of all immigrants entering the Southern Border of the United States illegally; and

WHEREAS, the policy has the effect of separating parents from their children by having the parents referred for prosecution while their children are placed in the custody of a sponsor, foster home, or a shelter; and

WHEREAS, research shows that even brief forced separations are harmful to the health and mental wellbeing of children and their parents; and

WHEREAS, data shows that, even prior to the official Policy announcement, more than 700 children were taken from their parents at the Southern Border between October 2017 and April 2018, including more than 100 children under the age of four; and

WHEREAS, just between May 6, 2018, and May 19, 2018, a total of 658 children, some as young as one year old, were separated from their parents; and

WHEREAS, children arriving at the Southern Border have often endured grueling conditions in their home countries, including violence, hunger, illness, and threats of physical harm, which conditions have led their families to seek asylum in the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, on June 6, 2018, in denying a motion to dismiss a federal lawsuit
2 challenging the validity of the Policy, a federal judge noted that the Policy "shocks the
3 conscience" and "arbitrarily tears at the sacred bond between parent and child"; and

4 WHEREAS, one of Broward County's stated missions is to assist families in their
5 efforts to achieve and maintain health, safety, and economic stability, NOW,
6 THEREFORE,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
9 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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11 Section 1. The Board hereby opposes and condemns the Policy and calls on
12 the federal government to immediately end this inhumane Policy that has the effect of
13 tearing families apart.

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15 Section 2. The Board hereby directs the County Administrator to transmit a copy
16 of this Resolution to the White House.

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18 Section 3. SEVERABILITY

19 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid
20 portion shall be stricken, and such striking shall not affect the validity of the remainder of
21 this Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, or any portion hereof, cannot
22 be legally applied to any individual(s), group(s), entity(ies), property(ies), or
23 circumstance(s), such determination shall not affect the applicability hereof to any other
24 individual group, entity, property, or circumstance.

