

**COUNTY OF OSWEGO
STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION**

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF OSWEGO) ss.:

Pursuant to New York State Executive Law, Article 2-B, a local State of Emergency is hereby proclaimed and continued within a portion of the territorial limits of the County of Oswego, effective January 2, 2024 which renews the prior proclamations and state of emergency initially commenced on July 14th, 2023.

WHEREAS, there is a national immigration crisis at the border between the United States and Mexico in that unprecedented and overwhelming numbers of migrants and asylum seekers are crossing over the open border of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government has failed or refused to anticipate and react to the exigent and emergent circumstances, resulting in thousands of migrants and asylum seekers crossing the U.S. border; and

WHEREAS, other states have seen fit to relocate thousands of migrants and asylum seekers crossing the national border to New York City, rather than address issues presented to its state and/or the Federal government and it is unknown whether these persons are afforded a choice in their destination; and

WHEREAS, although New York City has been declared a sanctuary city, it is apparent it has failed and/or refused to adequately and humanely address the needs of its residents including homeless and those in need of temporary shelter transferred to New York City, and, instead, the city and has decided to, transfer its duties and responsibilities to the other counties adjacent to New York City; and

WHEREAS, upon information and belief, due to the influx of persons seeking shelter and assistance in New York City combined with persons within the city seeking same, the City of New York is advertising and printing brochures promoting both temporary and long-term housing or shelter solutions in at least one or more counties for at least four months and which is believed will be longer, if not permanent; and

WHEREAS, according to the promotional brochures by New York City, individuals in need of temporary assistance including temporary shelter will also receive medical care, education needs, food, laundry and other necessities, only initially to be funded by the City of New York as an inducement to relocate from the city; and

WHEREAS, by way of example, New York City has represented to Orange County officials that approximately only 60 adult males will be transported to Orange County but Orange County has since learned that the City of New York had also sought to house additional hundreds of individuals at additional locations without notifying Orange County, and, as a result, Orange

County has publicly stated it can no longer rely on the representations of New York City officials; and

WHEREAS, the city has also indicated it may relocate persons via bus *en masse* in need of temporary shelter and other assistance to other counties and should a similar situation occur here and persons are transported to Oswego County, there is doubt as to whether New York City's social services district can humanely manage, house and provide assistance to these individuals as the city, from media accounts, is having significantly difficulty doing so within its own borders; and

WHEREAS, the County of Oswego and its municipalities lack the resources and personnel to humanely house, educate, provide medical assistance and care and otherwise look after persons sent *en masse* in groups from the City of New York's social services district, as many municipalities are experiencing homelessness within their own borders, without being first consulted as to capacity; it is also unknown whether the persons bused by the city *en masse* are even given a choice as to the place of their relocation by NYC to other counties; and

WHEREAS, the County of Oswego has had to place homeless individuals within its own borders in adjoining counties due to a lack of available resources; and

WHEREAS, there is a concern persons sent *en masse* in groups via bus from the city may displace other persons currently receiving temporary shelter and assistance locally due to the city offering a better rate to shelter these individuals temporarily which creates a separate compound problem for this county; and

WHEREAS, I find there is reasonable apprehension of immediate danger of public emergency of potentially hundreds of persons being transported to Oswego County with little or no notice and that Oswego County will be responsible for the welfare and public safety of these persons together with all others affected thereby in Oswego County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Oswego is a rural county and is not capable of receiving and humanely sustaining such volume of individuals that New York City may intend to, or hereafter does, transport to the County *en masse* in groups via bus, whose presence will spike the number of people in need of finite government services at all levels of government in the County; and

WHEREAS, local zoning codes do not allow the use of temporary residence hotels or other temporary residence facilities for use as long-term residential housing or shelters notwithstanding OTDA's guidance and, therefore, New York City's transportation of persons *en masse* to Oswego County for that purpose would be unlawful; and

WHEREAS, through enforcement of local zoning codes, persons sent from the City of New York may face refusal, or eviction from the illegal hotels and short-term residential facilities, resulting in large-scale homelessness for these individuals thereby compounding the existing homelessness problems in the City of Oswego and City of Fulton; and

WHEREAS, temporary housing shelter beds in Oswego County are currently at or near maximum capacity and cannot accommodate additional homeless individuals in the numbers contemplated by NYC in other counties; and

WHEREAS, the Oswego County has inadequate infrastructure to meet the needs of large groups of individuals, including, but not limited to, work opportunities, education, language, transportation to work, food, medical care, and pharmaceutical opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the county is unaware of any lasting reimbursement from the City of New York for expenses which may be incurred as a result of New York City's program to move individuals from its social services district to other counties as it appears to be limited despite state regulations; and

WHEREAS, due to the above circumstances, I find a reasonable apprehension of immediate danger thereof that public safety and health is imperiled thereby, for not only individuals which may be relocated to this county from the City of New York en masse in groups, but also for the residents of Oswego County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby declare, in order to protect life and property, a State of Emergency within the territorial limits of the County of Oswego and will issue subsequent Emergency Orders when, and as may be, necessary and proper.

I FURTHER FIND this State of Emergency does not in any way impact travel or County employees or County operations, is not weather related, and does not suspend County operations. This State of Emergency Declaration shall take effect immediately, be filed and published as required by law, and individually expire as required by law.

AND, FURTHER, any Emergency Order which may have lapse but for the renewal of this State of Emergency shall continue per its own terms.

This State of Emergency shall continue for thirty (30) days unless rescinded or amended by subsequent declaration or order.



Hon. James Weatherup, Chairman
Oswego County Legislature

L.S. Dated: January 2, 2024