

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 18-0093R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Cohen, President Young, Councilmembers Scott, Dorsey,
Henry, Schleifer, Middleton, Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Stokes, Sneed, Clarke
Introduced and adopted: July 9, 2018

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

The Reunification of Families

1
2 FOR the purpose of calling on the Federal Government to immediately reunify all families
3 separated under the “zero tolerance” immigration policy, to end contracts with private prisons
4 and jurisdictions benefitting from the incarceration of families, and to reconstitute and
5 repurpose ICE; calling on Governor Hogan and the State of Maryland to ensure no State
6 resources are used to separate families and calling on jurisdictions around the State to
7 disentangle local law enforcement from immigration enforcement; and for the purpose of
8 expressing Baltimore’s opposition to the separation and prolonged detention of families.

9 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City has benefitted culturally, socially, and economically from the
10 diversity of its residents, including more than 45,000 immigrants from around the world.

11 **WHEREAS**, In 2011, to recognize and uphold the constitutional rights of immigrants to be
12 protected against unreasonable seizures, the Baltimore City Council passed a resolution in
13 opposition to the federal Secure Communities Program.

14 **WHEREAS**, The Mayor of Baltimore issued an executive order in 2012 to establish policies of
15 the Baltimore City Police Department and all city agencies to protect access to police protection
16 and public services regardless of immigration status.

17 **WHEREAS**, In 2017, to reaffirm Baltimore City’s continuing commitment to advocate for and
18 support the well being of all residents, the Baltimore City Council passed a resolution for the
19 purpose of affirming the City of Baltimore as a Welcoming City that promotes policies and
20 programs to foster inclusion for all.

21 **WHEREAS**, In 2018 the Trump administration announced a “zero tolerance” immigration
22 policy. As a result of that policy, from April 19 to May 31, 2018, the administration separated
23 over 2,000 families, many of whom came to this country fleeing violence and seeking asylum.

24 **WHEREAS**, Lawyers working with the immigrants reported that a breastfeeding baby was
25 taken from an immigrant mother; and, although DHS denies separating babies from adults,
26 officials declined to specify an age at which they would not separate immigrant children from
27 parents.

28 **WHEREAS**, Parents and children in our own city have been separated, including an individual
29 who was apprehended while dropping his child off at school.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 **WHEREAS**, Separating children from their families is unjust, unnecessary, and can cause
2 mental and physical injury to both the child and the parent.

3 **WHEREAS**, On June 26, 2018, a federal judge ordered federal officials to stop detaining
4 parents apart from their children, to reunify all parents with their minor children who are under
5 the age of 5 by July 10, 2018, and to reunify all parents with their minor children age 5 and older
6 by July 26, 2018.

7 **WHEREAS**, We stand with Maryland Attorney General Frosh in his efforts to compel the
8 Trump Administration to reunify the families separated under the “zero tolerance” policy.

9 **WHEREAS**, The federal government has committed to detain families in private detention
10 centers and has yet to announce a plan to reunite families that have been separated.

11 **WHEREAS**, Prosecuting and detaining people who seek asylum, refugee status, or economic
12 freedom is un-American and contravenes the principles upon which our country was founded.

13 **WHEREAS**, We seek to ensure that our communities have the opportunity to thrive – which
14 includes maintaining our infrastructure, creating good jobs, and providing a quality education for
15 our children. We are responsible for the safety of everyone in our communities, yet the presence
16 of ICE in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, places of worship, courthouses, and homes,
17 makes this impossible.

18 **WHEREAS**, ICE commits human rights violations; oversteps its authority and skirts the law;
19 enriches private prison corporations that house immigrants; targets vulnerable populations;
20 threatens elected officials and activists who challenge it; diverts scarce local resources to federal
21 enforcement; and systematically avoids accountability and transparency.

22 **WHEREAS**, The City of Baltimore embraces and welcomes individuals of diverse racial,
23 ethnic, religious, cultural, and national backgrounds.

24 **WHEREAS**, The City of Baltimore advocates for comprehensive immigration reform through
25 its federal legislative agenda, which urges the United States Congress to enact immigration
26 reform that provides a realistic pathway to citizenship, works to keep families of immigrants
27 intact, promotes public safety, national security, and economic prosperity, and respects human
28 rights and civil liberties, as noted in Council Bill 06-0170R.

29 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

30 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City of Baltimore
31 strongly opposes any policy that results in the separation of children from their parents or siblings
32 or that results in the prolonged detention of families, via border enforcement, interior
33 enforcement, or travel restrictions based on religion, race, ethnicity, or country of origin.

34 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City of Baltimore calls on Attorney General Jeff
35 Sessions, Homeland Security Secretary Kristjen Nielsen, and the federal government to support
36 policies that keep families together, provide for the immediate reunification of families already
37 separated, and put an end to the “zero tolerance” policy of criminalizing immigrants based
38 simply on their entry to the U.S.

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City of Baltimore calls on Secretary Nielson and
2 the federal government to end contracts with private prisons and local and state jurisdictions who
3 benefit financially from the incarceration of people due to the “zero tolerance” policy.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City of Baltimore calls on Governor Hogan and the
5 State of Maryland to ensure that no state resources are used in any way to support or facilitate the
6 separation of families through collaboration with ICE, CBP, or any other federal agency that
7 results in the deportation or detention in State facilities, including the Baltimore City Detention
8 Center, of immigrant adults, families, or children.

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City of Baltimore calls on its sister jurisdictions
10 across the state of Maryland to disentangle their local law enforcement and corrections personnel
11 and resources from immigration enforcement to the greatest extent possible. We further call on
12 Governor Hogan to support these efforts.

13 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City of Baltimore calls on the federal government
14 to reconstitute and repurpose ICE, from a federal agency that has traumatized families in our city
15 and across the country to an agency that truly protects our communities from international crime
16 syndicates and human trafficking and that is consistent with the values enumerated above.