



County of Schenectady

NEW YORK

SCHENECTADY COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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ANTHONY JASENSKI, SR.
CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATURE

GEOFFREY T. HALL
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

Monday, July 24, 2023
Special Meeting - 7:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

1. Special Meeting Called to Order by Chair Jasenski
2. Roll Call
3. Invocation
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Reading of the Call of the Special Meeting by the Clerk:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Subdivision three of section 2.03 of Article II of the Administrative Code of the County of Schenectady there is hereby called a Special Meeting of the County Legislature by the Clerk thereof, at the direction of Chair Anthony Jasenski, Sr., to wit:

THERE SHALL BE a Special Meeting of the Schenectady County Legislature on Monday, July 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. by the call of Chair Anthony Jasenski, Sr. in the Legislative Chambers, Schenectady County Office Building, 620 State Street, Schenectady, NY for the purpose of discussing the asylum seeker issue and directing the County Manager to issue an emergency order prohibiting the further acceptance and housing of any asylum seekers in Schenectady County by any parties.

6. Resolution 138-23 The Committee on Rules (R46) – A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE COUNTY’S HOUSING CRISIS
7. Adjournment



RESOLUTION 138-23

Sponsored by Legislator Jasenski:

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE COUNTY'S HOUSING CRISIS

BE IT ENACTED, by the Legislature of the County of Schenectady, as follows:

WHEREAS, this Legislative Body has a duty to act in the best interest of the County of Schenectady and its residents; and

WHEREAS, this Legislative Body recognizes that asylum seekers have left their countries of origin and entered this country in pursuit of refuge and a better life and as such, they and their families have rights under Federal Law; and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2021, the Federal Government issued an Order pursuant to 42 USC Sect. 362 and 365 (Title 42 Order) prohibiting migration into the United States by "covered noncitizens" traveling from Canada or Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Title 42 Order expired on May 11, 2023, and upon its expiration, a surge of migration into the United States commenced resulting in the arrival of approximately 90,000 individuals into New York State since last Spring; and

WHEREAS, communities throughout the State of New York are facing severe housing crises which have been exacerbated by the relocation of asylum seekers from the City of New York, limiting the number of temporary housing units available throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, while many Counties throughout the State of New York issued Emergency Orders and States of Emergency related to this crisis, the County of Schenectady did not issue any such orders because such actions heretofore failed to prevent the transport of asylum seekers to those communities and it was unclear whether the County's housing crisis would be impacted; and

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2023, the City of New York, without providing proper notice

to local officials, relocated a large group of asylum seekers to the Super 8 Motel in the Town of Rotterdam; and

WHEREAS, individuals and corporations are displacing residents of Schenectady County in order to profit from doing business with the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of this relocation, probable cause exists that the Super 8 Motel illegally removed individuals lawfully occupying the Motel; and

WHEREAS, the actions of the Super 8 Motel constitute a deprivation of rights of those located within the County of Schenectady, and forms a basis to believe similar action may be taken in other locations within Schenectady County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Schenectady has an obligation to ensure that the necessary resources exist within Schenectady County to support the needs of those located within Schenectady County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Schenectady has an obligation to ensure that the actions taken to assist one group of individuals requiring assistance does not jeopardize another group of individuals requiring assistance; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the actions taken by the City of New York have negatively impacted individuals located within the County of Schenectady and will continue to do so; and

WHEREAS, while the City of New York has not acted transparently, the actions taken by the City of New York are directly related to the abject failure of the United States of America, and the States of Florida and Texas; and

WHEREAS, the provision of resources on behalf of the asylum seekers is a federal issue for which the United States of America should be administering and allocating resources; and

WHEREAS, New York State has irrationally limited the use of state funds such that our local nonprofit organizations, the very agencies that specialize in humanitarian care and have planned for management of asylum seekers needs, are ineligible for funding as to the housing, feeding, and care of asylum seekers; and

WHEREAS, the failure of the United States of America has resulted in States fighting amongst themselves over the relocation of asylum seekers; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result of these circumstances, local governments, including those within Schenectady County, are forced to bear an impossible and unsustainable burden to handle the issue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Manager be and hereby is directed to issue a state of emergency and emergency order prohibiting the relocation of asylum seekers and other migrants to the County of Schenectady in order to ensure adequate housing capacity for individuals for which the County is obligated to provide care; and implore the President of the United States and Governor of the State of New York, along with the United States Congress and New York State Legislature, to allocate adequate resources that will allow local governments to mitigate a crisis not of their own making without becoming a burden to the local taxpayer.