

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY DISASTER AFFECTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AID AND SUPPORT TO ASYLUM SEEKERS RESIDING IN THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, 2024

WHEREAS, State of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker executed a “Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation” on January 5, 2024, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, regarding the thousands of individuals and families seeking asylum who have arrived in the City of Chicago from the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, in the Governor’s Disaster Proclamation, the Governor states that the asylum seekers “require specific and immediate support, including emergency shelter and housing; food; health screenings, medical assessments, and treatment” and other services; and

WHEREAS, Governor Pritzker further states that “the circumstances of the present situation give rise to a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of these vulnerable families and individuals and to the State, require immediate action” and is a “disaster;” and

WHEREAS, on October 31, 2023 and thereafter, over 150 asylum seekers arrived in the Village of Oak Park (“Village”) and have begun residing in the Village since that date; and

WHEREAS, these asylum seekers are in immediate need of housing, food and services; and

WHEREAS, the arrival of asylum seekers in the Village is a humanitarian crisis affecting the public health, safety and welfare of the asylum seekers and the Village; and

WHEREAS, Section 8-10-5 of the Illinois Municipal Code, 65 ILCS 5/8-10-5, provides that the Village Board may declare an emergency when the public health or safety is affected pursuant to a majority vote of its members and such a declaration allows for contracts to be let by the Village without public advertisement; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-6-10 of the Oak Park Village Code (“Village Code”) further provides that “[i]n cases of urgently needed material or urgent repairs involving labor and material, such repairs and material may be obtained through negotiated contract without formal advertising with the approval of the Village Manager, when it is in the best interest of the Village and when it is impractical to convene a meeting of the Board of Trustees;” and

WHEREAS, Section 2-27-9 of the Village Code further provides that “[t]he Village Manager may, with the approval of the Village Board of Trustees, on recommendation of the Coordinator of the Oak Park ESDA [Emergency Service Disaster Agency] authorize any purchase or contracts necessary to place the Village in a position to combat effectively any disaster, and to protect the public health and safety, protect property, and to provide emergency assistance to victims in the case of any manmade or natural disaster;” and

WHEREAS, the Village Board originally declared a disaster in the Village on November 2, 2024 pursuant to Resolution 23-326 through December 2, 2023 due to the arrival of the asylum seekers in the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board subsequently declared a new disaster in the Village on November 2, 2023 pursuant to Resolution 23-326 through February 6, 2024 due to the arrival of the asylum seekers in the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Coordinator of the Oak Park ESDA has made a recommendation to allow for such authority pursuant to Section 2-27-9 of the Village Code through February 29, 2024, and such recommendation is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth, to provide aid and support to asylum seekers residing in the Village; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the emergency affecting the public health, safety and welfare as set forth herein, the Village Board declares an emergency in the Village pursuant to Section 8-10-5 of the Illinois Municipal Code and Sections 2-6-10 and 2-27-9 of the Village Code through February 29, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois, in the exercise of its home rule powers, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals Incorporated. The above recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth.

Section 2. Emergency Disaster Declaration Affecting the Public Health, Safety and Welfare. The Village Board declares an emergency disaster pursuant to this Resolution affecting the public health, safety and welfare due to the arrival of asylum seekers in the Village pursuant to Section 8-10-5 of the Illinois Municipal Code and Sections 2-6-10 and 2-27-9 of the Village Code.

Section 3. Duration of Emergency Disaster Declaration. The emergency disaster declared herein shall be in effect through February 29, 2024.

Section 4. Severability and Repeal of Inconsistent Ordinances and Resolutions. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Resolution shall be held invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Resolution. All ordinances, resolutions or adopted motions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

ADOPTED this 23rd day of January, 2024, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

Voting	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
President Scaman				
Trustee Buchanan				
Trustee Enyia				
Trustee Parakkat				
Trustee Robinson				
Trustee Straw				
Trustee Wesley				

APPROVED this 23rd day of January, 2024.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk