Immigration Equal Protection and Sanctuary City Resolution

WHEREAS from the Great Migration and Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s, to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, Harlem has a long and storied history of promoting a fair and just society that values the contributions of all individuals regardless of race, creed, color, disability or national origin;

WHEREAS approximately 24% of Central Harlem is foreign born, including significant populations of Caribbean, Senegalese, Somalian and Yemeni heritage;

WHEREAS Harlem owes its current and future prosperity to the collective actions of all its residents;

WHEREAS on March 6, 2017, United States President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 13780 revoking and replacing Executive Order 13769, entitled “Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States;”

WHEREAS Executive Order 13780 made significant changes to the policies and procedures by which individuals who are not citizens, legal permanent residents, or valid visa-holders may enter the United States, including imposing a 90-day suspension of entry of persons from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, or Yemen;

WHEREAS on December 7, 2015 during his presidential campaign, United States President Donald J. Trump admitted that if elected, he would enact a “Muslim ban;”

WHEREAS, United States President Donald J. Trump also signed Executive Order 13768, entitled, “Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States,” threatening to withhold federal funding from so-called “sanctuary cities;”

WHEREAS, the term “sanctuary” is used to refer to a jurisdiction that limits the role of local law enforcement agencies (“LLEAs”) and officers in the enforcement of federal immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2017 the New York State Assembly passed Assembly Bill 3049B, dubbed the “New York State Liberty Act,” prohibiting state and local police from conducting stops or arrests based solely on perceived immigration status, and preventing government agencies from inquiring about immigration status when an individual seeks aid or reports a crime.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 urges that the Executive Branch of the United States Government, while fulfilling its responsibility to
secure the nation’s borders, take care that any Executive Orders regarding border security, immigration enforcement, and terrorism:

A. Adhere to the protections of the United States Constitution;
B. Not use religion or nationality as a basis for barring an otherwise eligible individual from entry to the United States;
C. Facilitate a transparent, accessible, fair, and efficient system of administering the immigration laws and policies of the United States, including the adjudication of visa applications, applications for immigration benefits, and applications for entry to the United States; and
D. Ensure protection for refugees, asylum seekers, torture victims, and others deserving of humanitarian refuge.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 supports the designation of the City of New York as a “Sanctuary City,” and urges New York City:

A. Not to engage LLEAs in activities with the sole purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws;
B. Not to honor U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) or Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) detainer requests except in specified circumstances involving violent or serious felonies;
C. Not to honor ICE or CBP requests for disclosure of certain nonpublic, sensitive information about an individual;
D. Not to provide ICE or CBP with access to individuals in LLEA custody for questioning solely for immigration enforcement purposes;
E. Not to use local agency resources to create a federal registry based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, disability or national origin;
F. To ensure that LLEAs protect the due process rights of persons as to whom federal immigration enforcement requests have been made;
G. To establish that LLEAs may not stop, question, investigate or arrest a person based on perceived immigration status or suspected violation of federal immigration law; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 reaffirms its support for the establishment of laws, policies, and practices that ensure access to legal protection for refugees, asylum seekers, torture victims, and others deserving of humanitarian refuge; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 urges the United States Congress to adopt additional legislation and to appropriate adequate funding for refugee applications and processing; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 urges the United States Congress to adopt legislation to mandate that refugees receive an appropriate individualized assessment in a
timely fashion to determine their eligibility as such, and that neither national origin nor religion be the basis for barring an otherwise eligible individual in making such determination; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 10 will support the equal protection of immigrants, as well as the designation of New York City as a sanctuary city, by conducting know-your-rights training and hosting a town-hall meeting to ensure that members of the Harlem Community are aware of their rights – regardless of citizenship status.