



DeKalb Welcoming Proclamation



WHEREAS, the Vision Statement contained in the City of DeKalb's 2025 Strategic Plan declares that "DeKalb is proudly known as a welcoming, safe, and vibrant city offering economic, educational, social, cultural, and recreational opportunities for everyone"; and

WHEREAS, the same Vision Statement states that "Diversity is valued and celebrated, with all people treated with dignity, equity, and respect"; and

WHEREAS, the City of DeKalb honors its proud legacy of immigration: from Baron John DeKalb - an immigrant who became a hero in the American Revolution - to laborers in the barbed wire industry; from service and agricultural workers to scientists at our major research university; and all immigrants who have played a vital role in the economy and character of our city, and continue to contribute to its vibrant future; and

WHEREAS, the City of DeKalb discourages unlawful discrimination and strongly supports the equal treatment of all individuals regardless of national origin; and

WHEREAS, achieving and maintaining a community that treats documented and undocumented immigrants with respect and dignity is consistent with the public policy of the City of DeKalb and the principles upon which the United States was founded; and

WHEREAS, the validity of DeKalb as an ethnically, racially and religiously diverse City in the State of Illinois, is built, in part, on the strength of its immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the cooperation of all persons, both documented citizens and those without documentation status, is essential to achieve the City's goals of protecting life and property, preventing crime, and resolving problems; and

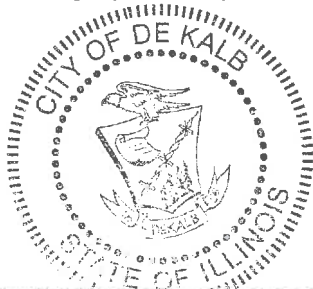
WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University relies on the contributions of immigrant students and staff to help create quality educational opportunities and a stable financial base; the University and its Board of Trustees have declared clear and public commitment to support all Northern Illinois University employees and students regardless of their immigration status; and the City of DeKalb is determined to extend this support beyond the confines of the University into every corner of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature and the Governor of the State of Illinois have clarified the role of the State in support of immigrants in the TRUST Act of 2017, and the City of DeKalb is resolved to support in word and deed the laws of our State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb Chief of Police, Gene Lowery, has stated "Federal authorities have the primary responsibility to enforce immigration laws and as such the DeKalb Police will not take enforcement action based solely on anyone's immigration status."; and

WHEREAS, recent developments and declarations by national political and administrative entities have given rise to unease in certain quarters of our immigrant communities regarding the safety of their participation in the economic, social, and civic life of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jerry Smith, as Mayor of the City of DeKalb, Illinois, do hereby proclaim that DeKalb shall continue to be a welcoming city for all its residents, regardless of national origin or immigration status; that precious local resources shall not be expended in the furtherance of enforcement goals that are appropriately the responsibility of the federal government; and that our unequivocal support of dignity and respect for all people in the City of DeKalb shall be made clear to all our communities.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of DeKalb, to be affixed this 12th day of March, 2018.


Jerry Smith, Mayor