

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 38

**SUBJECT: COUNTY ACTION TO ADDRESS TERMINATION OF TITLE 42:
ADDRESSING THE NEED FOR RESPITE MIGRANT SHELTER
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

Over the past four years, the U.S.-Mexico border has seen an increase in migrants seeking asylum from humanitarian crises around the globe. Federal law allows people from other countries to seek asylum in the United States if they fear persecution at home. They must be present in the U.S. and prove that they have a fear of persecution on one of five grounds: race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social class. However, in March 2020, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) put into effect Title 42, a law that prevented those seeking asylum from entering the U.S. Title 42 was a mitigation effort meant to control the spread of COVID-19. As a result of Title 42, the U.S. stopped processing asylum seekers who arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border asking for humanitarian protection.

On April 1, 2022, the CDC released a media statement indicating the intent to terminate Title 42 on May 23, 2022. With this announcement, the backlog of asylum seekers who have been waiting at the U.S.-Mexico border will be processed for asylum. As a welcoming community that reaffirmed its commitment to accept refugees and newcomers, the County of San Diego should be prepared for an increase in individuals and families seeking asylum while creating pathways for them to safely reach their final destination.

Since immigration regulations are not under local authority, today's actions will create an ad-hoc Board of Supervisors subcommittee to address both short-term and long-term goals. Additionally, the action will direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide immediate assistance in identifying temporary respite sheltering for the anticipated increase of individuals and families who will be seeking asylum and will ensure better coordination amongst different government agencies, NGOs, and local jurisdictions. Today's actions will also seek to work with our federal and State delegations to seek reimbursement; work on legislative policy, and advocate for funding resources that would allow the County to provide on-going services to asylum seeking families, individuals, and partner with NGOs.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

VICE-CHAIR NORA VARGAS AND CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER

1. Appoint Chair Fletcher and Vice Chair Vargas to an ad-hoc Board of Supervisors sub-committee to address both short-term and long-term solutions for the influx of migrants entering San Diego County.
2. Find that the proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA guidelines sections 15269(c)

3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to identify County property for a potential temporary respite shelter that could be used to temporarily shelter asylum seeking individuals and families and take actions necessary to effectuate such use.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with federal and State delegations on legislative policy, including seeking funding resources, that would allow the County to provide necessary human services to asylum seeking individuals and families and receive reimbursements, since immigration regulations are not under local authority.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

For generations, the United States has experienced cycles of migration where the populations have varied from country of origin and circumstances. Individuals coming are fleeing violent conflict, war, and unlivable conditions. Migrants who arrive at the border are parents arriving with children or individuals fleeing their home country, looking for safety and an opportunity for a better life. While families await their application decision, it is imperative to provide safe respite shelter with supportive services to ensure the wellbeing of these vulnerable populations and the surrounding communities.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today’s actions. There is no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years. There may be fiscal impact associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the board for consideration and approval.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

