

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CONSIDERATION OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION
STATUS IN THE VILLAGE OF COOPERSTOWN**

WHEREAS, the Village of Cooperstown values diversity and respects the civil and human rights of all residents and visitors regardless of race, ethnicity, or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, on December 22, 2016, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cooperstown passed a resolution reaffirming its strong support for fundamental Constitutional rights and its condemnation of the use of violence, bigotry, and hateful rhetoric; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Cooperstown Police Department has made it a priority to gain the trust and confidence of the entire community so that all feel that it is safe to contact and work with police and to access other vital village services; and

WHEREAS, preserving the confidentiality of certain information is integral to the operation of Village government; and

WHEREAS, recent federal immigration raids around the country have caused fear in immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is not intended to interfere with the enforcement of criminal laws,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cooperstown, County of Otsego, State of New York, a majority of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. VILLAGE SERVICES: The Village of Cooperstown reaffirms its commitment to civil rights and equal access to all Village services, including police and fire protection. Accordingly, no Village Services shall be denied on the basis of citizenship. Village staff shall follow general village, state, and federal guidelines to assess eligibility for Village services. This prohibition shall not apply to persons seeking employment, or as otherwise required by federal or state statute, regulation, or court decision.

SECTION 2. VICTIM OR WITNESS PROTECTION: The Village of Cooperstown recognizes the obligation to balance any decision to enforce federal immigration laws with its daily mission of protecting and serving the community; therefore, it shall be the general practice of the Village of Cooperstown not to inquire about the immigration status of crime victims, witnesses, or others who call or approach Village staff seeking assistance.

SECTION 3. COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES:

- a. The Village of Cooperstown will not avail itself of the opportunity to participate in the Delegation of Immigration Authority provided through Section 287 (g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (1996).
- b. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to prohibit Village staff from cooperating with federal immigration authorities when required under federal law.

SECTION 4. TRANSMITTAL: The Board of Trustees shall instruct the Village Administrator to transmit copies of this resolution, including any future amendments thereto that shall be made, to every department, committee, board, and employee of the Village of Cooperstown.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY: If any part of this resolution, or the application thereof, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this resolution shall not be affected thereby, and this resolution shall otherwise continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this resolution, and each of them, are severable.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE: This resolution shall take effect at the earliest date allowed by law.