

Resolution affirming residents' guaranteed rights to humane treatment

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States and its Bill of Rights guarantee fundamental rights—such as due process and equal protection—to all people within the country's borders, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, and City of Cedar Park (“the City”) is firmly committed to upholding these protections in accordance with the law; and

WHEREAS, the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments clearly state that no individual shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law—principles that apply to every person present in the United States and reflect our nation’s core ideals of fairness and justice; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed in cases such as *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) that constitutional rights extend to all individuals in the United States, regardless of their immigration status—thereby cementing the legal obligation of local governments to treat every person with dignity, justice, and respect; and

WHEREAS, the right to challenge unlawful detention through habeas corpus, as protected in Article I, Section 9 of the U.S. Constitution, protects against arbitrary detention and underscores the American rejection of unchecked governmental power, obligating us to maintain accountability in all acts of restraint; and

WHEREAS, the City values open and accountable governance, and recognizes that ensuring transparency in the detention, transportation, and treatment of individuals by any agency operating within the City is essential to maintaining public trust and upholding constitutional protections, including those found in the First and Fourth Amendments; and

WHEREAS, the shared value of treating others as we ourselves wish to be treated is reflected not only in ethical teachings but in America’s founding principles—affirming that every person is entitled to equal rights and humane treatment; and

WHEREAS, to promote accountability and public confidence, any personnel involved in the physical transfer or detention of individuals within the City must wear body cameras, display clear name identification and agency affiliation, and refrain from concealing their faces unless required for health-related reasons; and

WHEREAS, members of the City Council for the City of Cedar Park (“the Council”) have each taken an oath to uphold and defend the U.S. and Texas Constitutions, and recognize that doing so includes defending the civil liberties of all persons within the County’s jurisdiction;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Council, call upon on all agencies and entities operating within the City to adhere to a clear, consistent, and constitutionally grounded process when detaining or relocating individuals—regardless of immigration status;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this process must include prompt, public notification that details who was taken, the legal authority under which the action occurred, the destination of the individual, and the justification for the action;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Council encourages other counties and municipalities across the State of Texas to adopt similar commitments to transparency, justice, and the protection of basic human rights— principles that unite us not by partisanship, but by our shared duty to the Constitution.

SIGNED AND ENTERED ON THIS XXX DAY OF XXXX , 2025