

COMMUNITY FREEDOM PARTY

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Migration and Immigration in Chicago

The **Community Freedom Party (CFP)**, a political party dedicated to representing, safeguarding, and advancing the social, economic, and political interests of the African-American community, do hereby call for and support the following ordinances, regulations and laws related to current and future migration and immigration in Chicago, proposals which we believe are necessary to ensure the comfort and well-being of Chicago's African-American families and reflect our party's values of love for the black community, empathy and concern for all people, honesty and integrity, humility, intellectual curiosity, and teamwork/unity:

1. **Aldermanic Approval for Migrant Shelters** - That the city of Chicago pass an ordinance that, before a migrant shelter or camp is built in any of Chicago's 50 Wards now or in the future, the following must occur:
 - a. Residents of such wards must be granted at least 120-days notice of such plans,
 - b. An open meeting must be scheduled within 15 days of such notice for residents of the ward to receive from their Alderperson information about the proposed shelter and be given an opportunity to voice their approval or disapproval of the plans, and
 - c. The Alderperson of any such ward, taking into account feedback received during the aforementioned meeting, must give their verbal and written approval during a city council meeting before a migrant shelter or camp can be built in the ward.
2. **Investment in Communities Hosting Migrant Shelters** - Communities on the South and West Sides of Chicago where migrant shelters are built should receive additional municipal funds to improve infrastructure, schools, health, and human services. These types of public investments will help support black community residents, not just migrants and immigrants.

3. **Restrictions on Migrant Shelters in High Crime/Poverty Areas** - That the city of Chicago pass an ordinance that no migrant shelter or camp shall be placed or built in community areas with either a high poverty rate (area-wide poverty rate of 20 percent or more) or a high crime rate (equal to or more than 950 violent crimes per 100,000 people). Placing a migrant shelter or camp in such areas would likely make it even more difficult for these areas to muster the financial and other resources necessary to address the violence and poverty-related issues residents must deal with on a daily basis.
4. **Increased Contracts for Black-owned Businesses and Vendors** - Businesses in communities where migrant shelters are built shall have priority for any and all government contract work and service provisions in that community as it relates to the migrant shelter and the migrants themselves.

Furthermore, where applicable and to the fullest extent possible, black-owned businesses and vendors shall account for at least 33% of any future contracts the city approves for the care of migrants, documented or undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers in the city of Chicago, now and going forward.

5. **\$350 Million in Increased Annual Funding for the South and West Sides** - That the city of Chicago, Illinois, and the federal government collectively provide \$350 million in increased annual funding for the disinvested South and West Sides of Chicago to improve the economic corridors, infrastructure, and schools in these areas. Such funding must not replace but supplement any financial resources customarily received by the South and West Sides as part of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and other funding sources at the municipal, state and federal levels.

If Chicago, Illinois and the federal government can lobby and find money to provide for the well-being of migrants and immigrants who have suffered from economic hardships and high unemployment in their countries of origin, they should lobby just

as urgently and provide money to improve the well-being of Chicago's South and West Side residents, who also suffer from well-documented economic hardships and high unemployment.

6. **Equal Housing Options for Chicago's Homeless Population** - CFP calls for any housing options and/or resources that are afforded to migrants to be equally afforded to Chicago's homeless population now and moving forward.
7. **Caps on Future Migration** - The Community Freedom Party calls on Chicago to pass an ordinance capping the number of migrants Chicago accepts and supports moving forward at 850 annually. Moreover, any increase in this cap must be contingent on the city's ability to significantly lower its present poverty, crime, unemployment, and housing insecurity levels on the South and West sides, especially in African-American and Latino communities.

Allowing migrants to enter Chicago without common sense limits is neither responsible nor sustainable given the city and state's current fiscal and budget difficulties. Moreover, there are resource-related limits to the number of migrants Chicago can support in a way that will humanely meet their needs while also meeting its public responsibilities to current Chicago residents.

8. **Background Checks for All Migrants and Immigrants Entering Chicago** - CFP calls for migrants and immigrants to receive background checks from the same agencies and organizations which provide these services for Chicago public servants. This not only ensures the security of Chicago residents but also migrant and immigrant families and children who must share facilities and services with people they may not be familiar with.
9. **Migrant Shelters on Illinois Unincorporated Land** - CFP calls on the state of Illinois to share more responsibility in caring for migrants, including dedicating some of its miles of unincorporated land for use as migrant shelters. A transportation

system can also be created to take migrants to central points in the city or other surrounding towns for needed resources.

- 10. Equal Distribution of Permanent Housing Options** - CFP calls on the city of Chicago to pass an ordinance directing the Chicago Department of Housing, now and in the future, in its management of its current Asylum Seeker Emergency Rental Assistance program and any similar city or state programs to permanently house migrants, documented and undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers, to ensure that such households are directed to permanent housing options equally throughout the city (i.e., 1/3 to the North side, 1/3 to the West side and 1/3 to the South side of Chicago).

The Community Freedom Party recognizes that permanent housing is a practical necessity of any long-term migration and immigration strategy; however, permanent housing must be a responsibility equally shared by all community areas in Chicago rather than solely a responsibility of African-American and Latino neighborhoods on the West and South sides.

- 11. Amend Chicago's Welcoming City Ordinance** - CFP calls on the city of Chicago to amend its Welcoming City Ordinance such that Chicago CityKey identification cards and the benefits, services, and legal protections for undocumented immigrants enshrined in the current Welcoming City Ordinance be 1) preserved for any undocumented immigrants already in the city as of February 1, 2024, and 2) denied for those undocumented immigrants entering Chicago after such aforementioned date until at least such time as the city of Chicago lowers its present poverty, crime, unemployment, and housing insecurity levels on the South and West sides by at least 75 percent.

CFP empathizes with those undocumented immigrants seeking to come to Chicago in hopes of improving their social and economic prospects. However, continuing to dedicate scarce municipal resources to sustain and support those who arrive in Chicago without proper documentation is unfair to African-American

families in Chicago's disinvested West and South sides suffering from high poverty, crime, unemployment, and housing insecurity.

12. **Repeal of the Trust Act** - CFP calls on the state of Illinois to repeal the Trust Act and to suspend benefits and social services provided to undocumented immigrants with the stipulation that all necessary steps be taken such that any loss of benefits, social services, and legal protections for undocumented immigrants resulting from such legislative actions not apply to those undocumented immigrants already residing in the state of Illinois as of February 1, 2024.

Similarly, CFP empathizes with those undocumented immigrants seeking to come to Illinois to improve their prospects. However, continuing to dedicate scarce state resources to support those who arrive in Illinois without proper documentation limits the state's ability to address current levels of poverty, crime, unemployment, and economic disinvestment, especially in Chicago, and is neither responsible nor sustainable given the state's current budget difficulties.

13. **Adequate Compassion and Care for Current Migrants and Undocumented Immigrants** - Concerning those migrants and undocumented immigrants in the city of Chicago, the Community Freedom Party calls for them and their families to be treated with the utmost respect and compassion and - regarding those already in the city as of February 1, 2024 - for all necessary steps be taken to ensure that they are provided with any needed resources to ensure that they can properly care for and can eventually sustain and support themselves.
14. **U.S. Immigration Policy Reforms** - CFP calls for Chicago, Illinois, other municipalities and states, and the federal government to work together on common sense U.S. immigration policy reforms that protect the rights of current U.S. citizens while also ensuring that the legal entry of immigrants into the country is conducted in an orderly, humane and sustainable way that fairly provides U.S. citizenship opportunities to people from all

continents of the world. To continue on the political path by which municipal, state and federal immigration policies and practices are not aligned is unsustainable.

The Community Freedom Party and its members support and will work for the passage of the policy proposals delineated above in order to help ensure the well-being of the city of Chicago and its African-American community.

THIS POLICY PROPOSAL HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND RATIFIED ON

January 29, 2024

WITH THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF

THE COMMUNITY FREEDOM PARTY
CHICAGO EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kirby Birgans

Sonya Dorsey

Daliah Goree

Branden Kelly

Howard Ray

Laron Taylor