

**PARK COUNTY, COLORADO
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION 24 - 013

A RESOLUTION DECLARING PARK COUNTY AS A NON-SANCTUARY COUNTY, HAVING FINITE, LIMITED RESOURCES AND PRIORITIZING PARK COUNTY CITIZENS FIRST

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Colorado, is concerned with the potential impacts of millions of people illegally crossing our nation's southern border and then flowing into Colorado's Denver Metro area, potentially spilling over into smaller, more rural Colorado communities; and

WHEREAS, Denver counts the highest number of illegal migrants per capita of any large city in the nation and the Mayor of Denver, on January 31, 2024, stated that, "This is both a humanitarian crisis for the individuals that are arriving, and it's a fiscal crisis for the cities that are serving. Those two crises are coming to a head right now."; and

WHEREAS, Park County contains the greatest amount of geographic area 9,000 feet or more above sea level, within our 2,166 square miles of area, more than any other county in Colorado. Our western border is the Continental Divide. These peaks rise to elevations of 12 to 14,000 feet above sea level. It is all downhill from there. 59% of our surface area is owned by governments (Federal, State, and Local), only 41% is privately owned in fee simple. We are a high alpine, harsh and difficult environment, with short summers and long winters. With our climate and elevation challenges, we have no facilities to accommodate indoor housing, and the related support services required. We have significant limitations serving our own County residents within our available funding sources. Our entire property tax base is dedicated to supporting local services; and

WHEREAS, Park County, lacks the Human Services, Public Health, Law Enforcement, and housing resources and infrastructure to address the impacts of any measurable influx of migrants who entered our nation illegally; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2023, United States Customs and Border Protection reported more than 3.2 million migrant encounters nationwide; and

WHEREAS, by July 2023, the United States Customs and Border Protection reported that it experienced more than 7 million encounters with migrants crossing the border since January of 2021, a number nearly 20 percent higher than the total population of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, due to the unprecedented influx of illegal immigrants entering the United States, the Border Patrol processed more migrants who entered the United States illegally in December 2023 than in any other month in the agency's history; and

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the County Commissioners of Park County, that Park County is unable to financially or physically accommodate an influx of illegal immigrants into the county. Further, let it be known the Park County Commissioners thoughts and prayers are with those illegal immigrants needing resources Park County is unable to provide. Finally, the County Commissioners recommit themselves to the endeavor of providing the services of land use, social services, law enforcement, and public health services to the citizens who reside legally within county borders. We prioritize our citizens first, as our fiduciary responsibility is to them, and to be responsible stewards of our available resources for their needs.

Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Park that the Resolution is hereby approved and adopted.

Moved, seconded, and approved this 19 day of March, 2024.

PARK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Amy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:



County Clerk

COMMISSIONER MITCHELL : YEA X NAY _____

COMMISSIONER ELSNER: YEA X NAY _____

COMMISSIONER WISSEL: YEA X NAY _____