

Warren County Board of Supervisors

STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION FOR COUNTY OF WARREN September 15, 2023

Pursuant to Article 2-B of the New York State Executive Law, I, Kevin B. Geraghty, Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors, hereby declare and continue a local State of Emergency within the territorial limits of the County of Warren, effective September 15, 2023.

WHEREAS, the United States has experienced a dramatic increase in persons who entered and remained in the United States unlawfully from or through Mexico; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2022, the Mayor of the City of New York executed N.Y.C. Emergency Executive Order 224 which declared a State of Emergency in the City of New York caused by the influx of persons who required public assistance, to include temporary housing assistance, which declaration was extended recently by the Mayor of the City of New York on the following dates: May 5, 2023 and May 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2023, the Governor of the State of New York declared a disaster emergency within the State of New York, finding and declaring that upon the expiration of the Title 42 Order, a humanitarian disaster is imminent, which declaration was extended on June 15, 2023 through July 15 2023; and

WHEREAS, the federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 expired May 11, 2023, also causing the expiration of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Order, entitled "*Public Health Reassessment and Order Suspending the Right to Introduce Certain Persons from Countries Where a Quarantinable Communicable Disease Exists*" (hereafter, "Title 42 Order"); and

WHEREAS, the City of New York is declared a "sanctuary city" which welcomes persons who entered and remained in the United States unlawfully and were therefore expected to provide emergency services, social services, and public health services to all such persons in need of public assistance; and

WHEREAS, before and after the expiration of the Title 42 Order, an estimated Seventy-Two Thousand (72,000) persons who entered the United States illegally arrived in the City of New York with immediate housing needs and public assistance needs resulting in a humanitarian crisis within the City of New York and as of June 26, 2023, the City of New York estimates that over Fifty Thousand (50,000) such persons are now receiving public assistance from the City of New York (hereafter, "NYC Homeless Population"); and

WHEREAS, a small percentage of the NYC Homeless Population applied for asylum with the United States government; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren has a total population of approximately 65,599, per the most recent 2020 United States Census and the County of Warren's social services, public health services, and emergency services are now strained to meet the public assistance needs of persons present in Warren County and the County of Warren has not declared itself a "sanctuary" county; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren does not possess the personnel, resources, or funding to provide the public services the City of New York now provides to the NYC Homeless Population should the City of New York unilaterally decide to relocate the NYC Homeless Population to Warren County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren received no communication from the City of New York concerning any plan to provide temporary housing assistance in Warren County to the NYC Homeless Population and the City of New York refuses to coordinate, plan or manage with officers and employees of the County of Warren concerning any future relocation of the NYC Homeless Population to Warren County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren possesses no information or reasonable basis to believe the City of New York shall provide essential funding for the future public assistance and care needs of the NYC Homeless Population relocated to Warren County, in violation of statutory and regulatory law, to include reimbursement for the multitude of services and support required by the NYC Homeless Population following their relocation to Warren County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Warren has not received and does not anticipate receiving any information from the City of New York for the relocated NYC Homeless Population, to include: their identity; immunization status; medical and health information; criminal background checks and records, if any; proof of legal status to be present in the United States; and proof of the legal right to be employed upon arrival; and

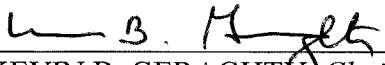
WHEREAS, the relocation of the NYC Homeless Population to Warren County, without the prior knowledge and involvement of the County of Warren, will cause a similar humanitarian disaster within Warren County; and

WHEREAS, the City of New York seeks to abandon all future financial responsibility for the NYC Homeless Population relocated to Warren County, in violation of section 62 of the Social Services Law, and to shift financial responsibility to the County of Warren by relocating the NYC Homeless Population over two hundred and eleven (211) miles due north from the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, the relocation of the NYC Homeless Population to Warren County by another municipality, such as the City of New York, will create a social services crisis, a health services crisis, and an emergency services crisis, resulting in an immediate strain on the ability of Warren County to meet these public assistance needs and shall threaten the health and public safety of Warren County residents and the relocated NYC Homeless Population; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 24 of the New York State Executive Law, as the Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors I am empowered to proclaim and declare a local state of emergency upon a reasonable apprehension of a public emergency or an emergency affecting the life, health, and safety of inhabitants of Warren County;

NOW THEREFORE, I PROCLAIM AND DECLARE a local state of emergency within the County of Warren, effective beginning September 15, 2023 and continuing until at least October 15, 2023, unless rescinded or extended by further declaration.



KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, *Chairman*
Warren County Board of Supervisors

Dated: September 15, 2023

CC: Clerk of the Warren County Board of Supervisors
Warren County Clerk
Office of the Secretary of State
New York State Office of Emergency Management