

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No.*

WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island was founded in Providence by Roger Williams, a refugee escaping religious persecution; and

WHEREAS, The colony established at Rhode Island was granted a charter establishing the principle of religious liberty; and

WHEREAS, Roger Williams established the colony in Providence based upon the norms of diversity and tolerance; and

WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island has ever since been a national leader in its commitment to the values of religious tolerance; and

WHEREAS, In the years that followed, the State of Rhode Island has been built upon the contributions of immigrants from all parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, The United States of America has opened its doors to immigrants for most of its history, as expressed in the Emma Lazarus poem “the New Colossus” which is inscribed on a plaque inside the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, the gateway for millions of new Americans; and

WHEREAS, President Trump signed an Executive Order on January 27, 2017 which purports to reduce by half the annual allowance of refugee admissions; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Order also purports to impose a temporary ban upon the lawful entry of all immigrants from seven Middle Eastern countries based on the claim these countries presented a special risk of terrorism, even though immigrants from these countries already are subject to rigorous oversight prior to admission into the United States; and

WHEREAS, The list of seven countries is arbitrary, as it does not for example include the countries from which the September 11 terrorists came; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Order also gives a preference in admissions for non-Muslims from these seven countries; and

WHEREAS, The executive order will incite confusion and opposition to America among Muslims who otherwise would be inclined to support this country in the war against terror; and

WHEREAS, Four federal courts already have issued stays of the Executive Order based

on legal challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby states its strenuous opposition to the President's executive order of January 27, 2017 regarding immigration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby opposes future initiatives to reduce the entrance of refugees or use a religious test to govern immigration policy.