

LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION

A Local State of Emergency is hereby declared in the County of Saratoga effective at 4:45pm on May 19, 2023.

WHEREAS, this Local State of Emergency has been declared due to the national immigration crisis at the border between the United States and Mexico whereby an overwhelming number of illegal immigrants, migrants and asylum seekers are crossing over the open border of the United States; and

WHEREAS, over the past several months, tens of thousands of illegal immigrants, migrants and asylum seekers have arrived in New York City; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 expired on May 11, 2023;

WHEREAS, upon the expiration of the federal Health Emergency for COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention order under Title 42, which suspended the allowance of certain persons travelling from Canada or Mexico, also expired on May 11, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of New York has declared the increase in illegal immigrants, migrants and asylum seekers in the City of New York to be a humanitarian crisis; and

WHEREAS, with the lifting of the Title 42 order, the Mayor of the City of New York expects an even larger influx of illegal immigrants, migrants and asylum seekers and has put in place plans to send illegal immigrants from the City of New York to other counties throughout the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, there is no indication that the migrants and asylum seekers being transported to counties outside of New York City for immediate shelter and services will be for a short-term period of time; and

WHEREAS, as of 2022 the US Census Bureau estimates the population of Saratoga County to be 238,797, and the County is rated to be one of the fastest growing counties in New York State and, therefore, would be especially sensitive to further change in population; and

WHEREAS, the County of Saratoga does not have the capacity or resources to receive and sustain a significant increase in the number of illegal immigrants, migrants and/or asylum seekers; and

WHEREAS, the County of Saratoga does not have adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of the overflow of illegal immigrants, migrants and asylum seekers overwhelming the New York City systems; and

WHEREAS, all temporary housing shelter beds in Saratoga County are currently at maximum capacity and cannot accommodate additional homeless individuals; and

WHEREAS, there is no legal basis to provide adequate services to these illegal immigrants, migrants and/or asylum seekers by the County's Department of Social Services because of their age and immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the County of Saratoga anticipates potential civil disobedience and protesting on this issue both for and against the transportation of illegal immigrants, migrants and/or asylum seekers to Saratoga County; and

WHEREAS, due to the above circumstances and threat to public safety, I find reasonable apprehension of the immediate danger thereof that public safety and public health is imperiled thereby, for not only the illegal immigrants, migrants and/or asylum seekers, but also to the other affected residents of Saratoga County; and

NOW THEREFORE, as the Chief Executive of the County of Saratoga, I, Theodore T. Kusnierz, Jr. exercise the authority given me under Section 24 of the New York State Executive Law, to preserve the public safety and hereby render all required and available assistance vital to the security, well-being, and health of the citizens of this Municipality, and hereby proclaim and declare a local state of emergency within the County of Saratoga, effective May 19, 2023 and continuing until June 18, 2023, unless I rescind or extend such local state of emergency.

I hereby direct all departments, agencies, and municipalities of Saratoga County to take whatever steps necessary to protect life and property, public infrastructure, and provide such emergency assistance deemed necessary.

This declaration shall be executed in quadruplicate and filed within seventy-two hours or as soon thereafter as practicable in the office of the Clerk of the Board, the office of the County Clerk, the New York State Secretary of State, and the New York State Office of Emergency Management within the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

Theodore T. Kusnierz Jr.

(Name)

Theodore T. Kusnierz Jr.

(Signature)

Chairman of the Board of Supervisor

(Title)

5-19-23

(Date)