Families in our community are in jeopardy of being torn apart, due to abrupt changes in national immigration policy and enforcement. As religious, civic, and business leaders of our community, we must do all we can to keep families together. We believe the first step in this effort is enacting a Welcoming City Ordinance similar to those enacted in by other Illinois communities, such as Oak Park, Urbana, and Chicago.

A Welcoming City Ordinance would affirm to immigrant members of our community that we value and depend upon their contribution and participation in our daily lives and should seek to strengthen their relationship with municipal agencies by ensuring that police and local government will not participate in federal immigration enforcement efforts.

A Welcoming City Ordinance would prohibit local government and police from:

- Assisting federal immigration agents (ICE) to identify or conduct surveillance on undocumented immigrants.
- Assisting in any planning, supporting, or conducting of any immigration raids. This is not required of them and would not violate federal law.
- Questioning people about their legal status in the course of their normal duties.

In addition to these restraints, local law enforcement officers would be encouraged to use their discretion when responding to a call or initiating a stop, and empowered to employ alternative resolutions in situations where an arrest is not required and would unnecessarily expose undocumented immigrants to enhanced risk of deportation. This would not violate federal law.

The consequences to local families from any delay in addressing this matter are immediate and present: recently, two Bloomington High School students came home to find both of their parents had been deported. As such, we must act expeditiously in order to secure the safety of our community. We urge our elected city leaders to commit to keeping families together by taking this first step of enacting a Welcoming City Ordinance.

Signature _____   Name (Print) _____

Organization _____

❏ I am signing on behalf of my organization/group/congregation

❏ My organization is for identification purposes only