

RESOLUTION FOR THE TOWN OF ENFIELD TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SEND A
REQUEST TO NEW YORK'S FEDERAL AND STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS TO DEFEND
THE CONSTITUTION AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

WHEREAS, as elected officials sworn to uphold and protect the Constitution of the United States of America, we are increasingly alarmed by actions we are seeing that violate fundamental Constitutionally protected rights; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances;" and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment affirms the people's rights to express and to be exposed to a wide range of opinions and views; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is unilaterally revoking visas and green cards from people based on these individuals exercising their Constitutionally protected expression of viewpoints; and

WHEREAS, the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states: "...nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law," and

WHEREAS, currently, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is unilaterally revoking visas and deporting people without judicial review or due process; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that due process is not an obstacle to justice; it is a Constitutionally guaranteed right for a person accused to see what they are accused of and to present contrary evidence; and

WHEREAS, the judiciary is one of three independent branches of the federal government; the independence of one branch acts as a check on the other two branches, specifically protecting Constitutionally recognized rights and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, in a series of recent executive orders, President Trump has restricted the ability of specific law firms, including those that employed his perceived political opponents, to interact with the federal government; and

WHEREAS, United States law affords persons the right to petition the federal courts for a writ of habeas corpus; and

WHEREAS, Federal Judge James Boasberg ordered the Trump administration to return at least two plane loads of immigrants so his court could determine if they were being properly deported; and

WHEREAS the Trump administration officials ignored Federal Judge James Boasberg's order, and have continued to send the planes to El Salvador subsequent to Federal Judge James Boasberg's order; and

WHEREAS, German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller eloquently expressed the necessity to speak out against attacks on a country's civil liberties:

*Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.*

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that as elected officials, we cannot stand silent as members of our constituencies are threatened by the actions of federal officials described above; and be it further

RESOLVED, that as democratically elected officials sworn to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution, we must take action to ensure that residents are not afraid to speak out on issues they find important in our democracy; and be it further

RESOLVED, that as elected officials, our ability to create and maintain a safe and stable community is undermined when our residents live in fear of being rounded up by the federal agents and deported at any moment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that as elected officials, we acknowledge that adherence to the rule of law helps to preserve the rights of all people in a democratic society; and be it further

RESOLVED, that as elected officials, we implore our federal and state representatives to take any and all appropriate legal actions to ensure that all members of the federal government follow the Constitution and respect the rule of law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, being that these are tumultuous times, it is our charge and responsibility as elected officials to represent our constituents, to uphold the core tenets of democracy and the U.S. Constitution, in order to prevent our nation from slipping into dangerous and authoritarian chaos; and be it further

RESOLVED, that as elected officials we ask the Town Supervisor to send this resolution to Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Representative Riley, Governor Hochul, Attorney General James, Senator Webb, and Assemblymember Kelles.