

Warren County Board of Supervisors

STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION FOR COUNTY OF WARREN November 9, 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 November 9, 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, as well as from and through Canada; and

WHEREAS, the City of New York refers to themselves as “sanctuary city” which welcomes persons who entered and remained in the United States unlawfully and therefore the City of New York was expected to provide emergency services, social services, and public health services to all such persons in need of public assistance; 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 and continues to be extended by the Mayor of the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2023, the Governor of the State of New York enacted Executive Order 28 which declared a disaster emergency within the State of New York through June 8, 2023, finding and declaring that upon the expiration of the Title 42 Order, a disaster was imminent for which the affected local governments are unable to respond adequately; 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, on May 27, 2023, the Governor of the State of New York enacted Executive Order 28.1 which extended the disaster emergency in the State of New York through June 26, 2023, finding and declaring that local governments within the State lack the infrastructure, facilities, and resources necessary to meet the immediate humanitarian demand to house and meet other basic needs of the large numbers of migrant arrivals and that the arrival of increased numbers of migrants seeking shelter in the State of New York is expected to exacerbate an already large-scale humanitarian crisis and create a disaster emergency to which local governments are unable to adequately respond, creating a threat to health and safety, which could result in the loss of life or property; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 28 was further extended by the Governor of the State of New York by Executive Order 28.2 on June 26, 2023 through July 26, 2023, and further extended by the Governor of the State of New York by Executive Order 28.3 on July 26, 2023 through August 25, 2023, and further extended by the Governor

of the State of New York by Executive Order 28.4 on August 25, 2023 through September 24, 2023, and further extended by the Governor of the State of New York by Executive Order 28.5 on September 24, 2023 through October 23, 2023, and further extended by the Governor of the State of New York by Executive Order 28.6 on October 23, 2023 through November 21, 2023; 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 November 9, 2023 and continuing until at least December 9, 2023, unless rescinded or extended by further declaration.



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

Dated: November 9, 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