

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the United States has long upheld the principles of due process, equal protection under the law, and fundamental fairness as enshrined in the U.S. Constitution; and,

WHEREAS, lawful permanent residents (LPRs), commonly referred to as green card holders, are granted the right to reside and work in the United States under federal law, and their status cannot be revoked without adherence to due process protections; and,

WHEREAS, Mahmoud Khalil, who is a distinguished student at Columbia University in New York, a Palestinian activist, a lead negotiator for the April 2024 “Gaza Solidarity Encampment,” and green card holder, was abducted by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) without a warrant on the evening of March 8th, 2025 at his New York City home; and,

WHEREAS, Khalil's location remains unknown to his attorney or his loved ones; and,

WHEREAS, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated on X, formerly Twitter, “We will be revoking the visas and/or green cards of Hamas supporters in America so they can be deported,” alongside an article about Khalil's detainment written by the Associated Press; and,

WHEREAS, the arbitrary or unconstitutional revocation of green card status without proper legal justification or due process violates fundamental American legal principles, disrupts families, and undermines confidence in the fairness and integrity of the U.S. immigration system; and,

WHEREAS, such actions disproportionately impact immigrants who have built their lives in the United States, contributed to the economy, and become integral members of their communities; and,

WHEREAS, the protection of immigrants' legal rights strengthens national unity, preserves international trust, and upholds the United States' commitment to justice and human rights; and,

WHEREAS, New York Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Donna Lieberman wrote in a statement, “The Trump administration’s detention of Mahmoud Khalil – a green card holder studying in this country legally – is targeted, retaliatory, and an extreme attack on his First Amendment rights... Ripping a student from their home, challenging their immigration status, and detaining them solely based on political viewpoint will chill student speech and advocacy across campus... Political speech should never be a basis of punishment, or lead to deportation.”; and,

WHEREAS, undermining the constitutional rights of green card holders now imperil the constitutional rights of all US Citizens, and all people in the United States at any moment in time; and,

WHEREAS, our city is committed to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and just community where all residents, regardless of immigration status, are treated with dignity and respect, and where constitutional rights are upheld and protected; and,

WHEREAS, the targeting of individuals for their lawful exercise of free speech or peaceful assembly undermines the values of democracy and justice that our city and nation hold dear; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The City Council of Chicago strongly condemns the arrest of Mahmoud Khalil by ICE, calls for his immediate release from detention to be able to rejoin his wife, who is eight-months pregnant and a US Citizen, and calls for a full and transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding his detention to ensure that this unconstitutional injustice is never repeated; and

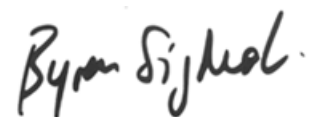
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we strongly condemn any unconstitutional, arbitrary, or unlawful revocation of green card status that violates the due process rights of lawful permanent residents; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that institutions of learning including colleges and universities, have a duty to protect the constitutional and human rights of their students and staff before they have a duty to obediently submit to illegal and immoral orders from unlawful government orders or actions; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge all branches of the U.S. government to reaffirm their commitment to upholding the constitutional rights of all individuals, including lawful permanent residents, ensuring that any action affecting their status adheres strictly to due process and the rule of law; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon policymakers, legal institutions, institutions of higher learning, and advocacy organizations to work collaboratively to safeguard the rights of immigrants and prevent any future abuses of power in immigration enforcement; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, that this resolution be transmitted to the appropriate governmental bodies, including the President of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Congress, and relevant judicial authorities, and to Columbia University in New York and all colleges and universities within the City of Chicago, to express our firm opposition to unconstitutional practices and advocate for just and lawful immigration policies and urging them to take immediate action to address the concerns raised herein.



Byron Sigcho-Lopez
Alderman, 25th Ward