RESOLUTION NO. 2026030

RE: OPPOSING THE PROPOSED FEDERAL IMMIGRATION DETENTION FACILITY IN THE TOWN OF CHESTER, ORANGE COUNTY, DUE TO SERIOUS CONCERNS REGARDING DUE PROCESS, THE RULE OF LAW, LACK OF TRANSPARENCY, AND UNDETERMINED FISCAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS AND REAFFIRMING DUTCHESS COUNTY AS A WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR ALL

Legislators SHAH, KAUL, DRAGO, VALDÉS SMITH, ATKINS, MUNN, ALEXANDER, ARNOFF, BRENDLI, LAWLER, REDL, RHODES and WINSBY offer the following resolution:

WHEREAS, since its founding, Dutchess County has been a strong, stable, and welcoming community, enriched by the contributions of individuals from every race, background, religion, creed, and national origin, including immigrants and families who live, work, raise children, and contribute meaningfully to the County's economic, agricultural, and civic life; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Dutchess County has witnessed troubling public examples of hate and intimidation directed at individuals and groups, including immigrants, based on religion, national origin, or status; and

WHEREAS, such hate, discrimination, and bigotry are inconsistent with the values of the Dutchess County Legislature, Dutchess County Government, and the residents of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Dutchess County Legislature continues to denounce and condemn hate, discrimination, and bigotry in all forms and reaffirms its commitment to fostering a welcoming, safe, and inclusive community for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that fear, intimidation, and hostility against immigrants undermine community safety, destabilize families, hurts our local economy, especially small businesses, and erodes trust in public institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Dutchess County Legislature is committed to public safety, the rule of law, accountable government, and the protection of strong families and healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement have proposed a federal immigration detention or processing facility in the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York; and

WHEREAS, large-scale civil detention or processing facilities have foreseeable regional impacts, including human, environmental, fiscal, and infrastructure demands that extend beyond the host municipality and directly affect neighboring counties, including Dutchess County; and

WHEREAS, recent federal immigration enforcement practices have raised concerns regarding human rights, due process, access to counsel, public safety, continuity of medical and mental health care, and the stability of families and communities that rely on County-based services; and

WHEREAS, the proposed detention or processing facility in the Town of Chester would present foreseeable regional impacts for Dutchess County, including potential strain on hospitals, emergency medical services, housing resources, mental health providers, social service agencies, legal systems, shared environmental resources, and as the closest proposed facility to Dutchess County it is the likeliest place where our residents would be housed; and

WHEREAS, responsible governance requires transparency, advance notice, and meaningful intergovernmental coordination so that counties may assess, plan for, and mitigate impacts on residents and public systems; and

WHEREAS, to date, sufficient information regarding the scope, capacity, operations, infrastructure demands, detention standards, environmental impacts, and compliance with state and local law of the proposed facility has not been provided to affected regional governments; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has identified unresolved concerns involving floodplains, wetlands, stormwater management, wastewater capacity, and tributaries connected to the Hudson River watershed, and has determined that available materials are insufficient for meaningful environmental review; and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County has previously experienced unanticipated demands on healthcare systems, housing resources, legal service providers, and community organizations when large-scale governmental actions proceeded without adequate coordination resulting in emergency executive orders; and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County holds a unique place in constitutional history as the site of New York State's ratification of the United States Constitution, and its elected officials are sworn to uphold principles of due process, accountability, transparency, and the rule of law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Legislature denounces and condemns hate, discrimination, intimidation, and bigotry in all of their manifestations, including hate directed at immigrants, and reaffirms its commitment to maintaining a welcoming, safe, and inclusive County for all residents; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature finds that large-scale governmental actions that increase fear, destabilize families, or strain County systems undermine community safety and cohesion within Dutchess County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Legislature hereby opposes the proposed federal immigration detention or processing facility in the Town of Chester, Orange County, based on its foreseeable regional impacts on Dutchess County, including risks to public health, environmental resources, infrastructure capacity, emergency services, social service systems, and community stability; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature finds that the proposed facility, as currently presented, lacks sufficient transparency, advance notice, and meaningful intergovernmental coordination

necessary for affected counties to adequately assess, plan for, and mitigate its regional impacts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature reaffirms its obligation to uphold constitutional principles, including due process, accountability, transparency, and the rule of law, and to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of Dutchess County residents through responsible planning and sound governance.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

☒ NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

APPROPRIATION RESOLUTIONS

(To be completed by requesting department)

Total Current Year Cost $ _____

Total Current Year Revenue $ _____
and Source

Source of County Funds *(check one)*: ☐ Existing Appropriations, ☐ Contingency,
☐ Transfer of Existing Appropriations, ☐ Additional Appropriations, ☐ Other *(explain)*.

Identify Line Items(s):

Related Expenses: Amount $ _____
Nature/Reason:

Anticipated Savings to County: _____

Net County Cost (this year): _____
Over Five Years: _____

Additional Comments/Explanation:

Prepared by: _____ _____ Prepared On: _____