

Resolution 3 -2024

**A RESOLUTION DECLARATING MONTEZUMA COUNTY AS A  
NON-SANCTUARY COUNTY AND SETTING PRIORITIES AND  
EXPECTATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE IMMIGRATION INFLUX**

**WHEREAS**, several cities in the United States of American, including the City of Denver, which has a population of 713,000 people, have declared themselves sanctuary cities; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past two months, Denver has seen an uptick in the arrival of undocumented migrant and illegal immigrants and is currently sheltering 4,500 people. This influx – the fourth significant surge in arrivals since late 2022 – is straining capacity and, based on current projections, could force the city to cut as much as \$180 million from its annual budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Denver faces an accelerated budget shortfall and agency budget cut to fund migrant services; and

**WHEREAS**, Denver schools face a shortfall of \$17.5 million in funding due to the continuous influx of migrants in the Denver area; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Denver has established policies constraining individual migrants to 14 days of shelter and families to 42 days of shelter; and

**WHEREAS**, both Denver and Carbondale plan to close their shelters in March and April of 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Montezuma County supports legal immigration into the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Montezuma County recognizes the plight of those seeking refuge and asylum from governments in other parts of the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Montezuma County respects the history of the United States as a beacon of freedom and opportunity in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, those who enter the country illegally can pose a significant public health and safety risk to a community when there is an increase in crime, communicable disease, and accelerating demand and unsustainability on public infrastructure such as services, public safety, schools, and the justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, the impacts of migrant relocations from Denver and other sanctuary cities located in the United States pose a risk to Montezuma County, its citizens, and service providers; and