



NEWS RELEASE

October 8, 2024

Commissioners amend resolution concerning immigration

Caldwell County Commissioners have amended a resolution regarding a local state of disaster created to make the county eligible for potential state and federal aid that would help communities that are seeing population growth due to an influx of immigrants.

In response to feedback from the community, language in Resolution 3-2023, which was passed in December 2022, was amended to clarify the resolution's purpose and the county's understanding of concerns related to a growing non-citizen population.

The amended resolution acknowledges that an increase in the non-citizen population contributes to added pressure on law enforcement, health care resources, schools and infrastructure while striking language related to COVID-19 and concerns about preventing the spread of that disease.

"When the court approved this resolution in 2022, the world, the United States and the state of Texas were in a different situation than the one we find ourselves in today," Caldwell County Judge Hoppy Haden said. "The state was still under a COVID-19 disaster declaration and the country was still considered to be battling a pandemic with treatment and prevention of that disease being of paramount importance. We're pleased to approve an amended resolution that more accurately represents the time in which we live and the circumstances we now face.

"It is not now nor was it ever the intent of this court to vilify individuals seeking to escape undesirable living situations and become citizens of the United States. But we absolutely want to make it clear that it creates a crisis due to the limited funding we have to maintain public safety, public health, quality of public education and our infrastructure. Having a resolution such as this helps our county potentially address that should state or federal aid come available."

The amended resolution will be posted to the county's website and the declaration will remain in effect until lifted by the court.

