

B. Lampke

WED. PKG.
10-30-85

October 30, 1985

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Barry Lampke, Sanctuary Group

SUBJECT: Press Conference - "City of Takoma Park Declared Sanctuary"

You are invited to attend a Press Conference pertaining to the sanctuary ordinance and resolution adopted Monday evening.

The Press Conference will be held tomorrow, Thursday, October 31, at 10:00 AM, in the lobby of the Municipal Building. A copy of the press release is attached.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 1985

TAKOMA PARK DECLARES SANCTUARY

On Monday, October 28, the City Council of Takoma Park, Maryland voted to declare the City a sanctuary for Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees and to instruct City employees not to cooperate with Immigration and Naturalization Service arrests or investigations. Takoma Park is the seventh city in the United States to declare itself a sanctuary city.

The Council voted first on a resolution which acknowledges the civil war and widespread human rights violations in El Salvador and Guatemala and condemns the United States policy of repatriation of undocumented aliens to those countries. The resolution urges its congressional delegation to support the Moakley-DiConcini bill currently before Congress.

The City Council then passed an ordinance which directs city employees not to cooperate in Immigration and Naturalization Service investigations nor to assist in arrests resulting from civil or criminal violations of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Councilman Lou D'Ovidio, who introduced both the resolution and the ordinance stated "Ultimately, it is appropriate that this resolution and ordinance were approved on the 99th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty, reaffirming the concept of helping those people in need."

The Mayor of Takoma Park, Sammie A. Abbott, who has consistently supported the concept of Takoma Park as a city of sanctuary said "The City Council and I are highly supportive of the ordinance and are proud to join the other pioneering cities who are leading the way toward the humanitarian effort which protects those who flee persecution and civil war and grants sanctuary to Salvadorans and Guatemalans until they can return to their homelands when peace is achieved."