Good morning, everybody. I’m pleased to welcome you to City Hall this morning. And I’m grateful for your interest in what has been a timely topic in New Haven now for months – and especially this past week.

These are challenging times for many people living in this nation, and they are particularly challenging for those who most recently lived in other nations.

In New Haven, the first phone calls expressing concern for immigrant residents were received in my office *the day after* Election Day last November. This issue has been disruptive for New Haven families since that day.

Beyond that disruption factor, there is fear and a sense of upheaval. No one should have to live that way, especially as a result of an arbitrary decision by the federal government.

So, at the local level of government we took action to try and allay that sense of fear, disruption, and upheaval.

Today we introduce a Family Immigration Emergency Preparedness Guide for those concerned about what to do when deportation threatens.

This handbook is complete with practical, legal, and emergency tips and referrals for recent arrivals. In my mind it speaks loudly about the harsh climate in which we now find ourselves.

Imagine needing two pages of listings for legal services, or needing to read the section entitled: ‘What to do if the police, FBI, or ICE stop you.’

It is my firm belief the effort built into these handbooks is consistent with the highest and best purpose of government. Would that the new administration in Washington shared this belief.

And the disruptive nature of these threats extends far beyond residents and their families. In New Haven we know from experience these fears keep students out of school, keep shoppers out of stores, and keep workers home from work.

These family preparedness suggestions are meant to keep families calm in the face of such uncertainty, and they are meant to stabilize the community across-the-board.

As mayor, I know first-hand how stable, prosperous cities serve the region – and the state – as secure cornerstones in terms of economics, education, healthcare, hospitality, culture, and entertainment.

I’m grateful for the work of all those who put time and effort into the preparation of this book. It sends a strong signal that in this city, we will work to make new residents feel welcome, safe, and secure, no matter where they used to live.

Thank you very much. ###