

# Middlesex County Board of Supervisors



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### RESOLUTION

**TO EDUCATE MIDDLESEX COUNTY RESIDENTS AND MEDICAL COMMUNITY ON THE RISKS OF TRAVELING TO CHINA FOR ORGAN TRANSPLANT IN LIGHT OF RECENT REPORTS OF STATE-SPONSORED ORGAN HARVESTING FROM PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE.**

**WHEREAS**, extensive and credible reports have revealed mass killing of prisoners of conscience in the People's Republic of China, primarily practitioners of the Chinese spiritual practice of Falun Gong, but also other religious and ethnic minority groups, in order to obtain organs for transplants; and

**WHEREAS**, The China Tribunal, an independent tribunal sitting in London chaired by Sir Geoffrey Nice, who was a prosecutor at the international criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, concluded on June 18, 2019, in a unanimous determination at the end of its year-long hearings, that the killing of detainees in China for organ transplants is continuing and victims include imprisoned followers of the Falun Gong movement; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2017 Freedom House report, "The Battle for China's Spirit," states that "available evidence suggests that forced extraction of organs from Falun Gong detainees for sale in transplant operations has occurred on a large scale and may be continuing"; and

**WHEREAS**, an investigative report published in June 2016 by human rights attorney David Matas, former Canadian Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific, David Kilgour, and journalist Ethan Gutmann, estimated that China is performing transplants at a rate amounting to "an industrial-scale, state-directed organ transplantation system, controlled through national policies and funding, and implicating both the military and civilian healthcare systems"; and

**WHEREAS**, Falun Gong, a spiritual practice involving meditative "qigong" exercises and centered on the values of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance, became immensely popular in China in the late 1990s with multiple estimates placing the number of practitioners at upwards of seventy million (70,000,000); and

**WHEREAS**, in July 1999, the Chinese Communist Party launched an intensive, nationwide persecution designed to eradicate the spiritual practice of Falun Gong. Hundreds of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been detained extralegally in Chinese re-education-through-labor camps, detention centers, and prisons, where physical and mental torture is common.

**WHEREAS**, in June 2016, the United States House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 343, condemning the systemic, state-sanctioned organ harvesting from practitioners of Falun Gong and other prisoners of conscience; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been little media coverage of this problem, yet dozens of Middlesex County citizens petitioned the Middlesex County Board of Supervisors to take up this matter; and

**WHEREAS**, Middlesex County residents should be fully informed of the organ source in China before they make the decision to engage in organ transplant tourism in China and the Middlesex County Board should assist in raising awareness in this regard;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY** the Middlesex County Board of Supervisors, that we condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the persecution of Falun Gong and the state-sponsored organ harvesting of all prisoners of conscience currently being carried out by the Chinese Communist regime; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we urge the United States government, to thoroughly investigate organ transplant practices in China and take all reasonable steps to end the practice of nonconsensual organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the residents and the medical community servicing Middlesex County and the immediate region be informed about the risks or travel to China for organ transplants to help prevent local citizens from becoming accomplices in state-sponsored forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be provided to the Governor of Virginia, Virginia's General Assembly, Virginia's congressional delegation and two U.S. Senators, and the Virginia Department of Health.

Adopted by the Middlesex County Board of Supervisors on August 3, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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**Matt Walker, County Administrator**