Resolution No. 981-2025

By Council Member Harsh

FOR ADOPTION
August 13, 2025

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Urging the U.S. House of Representatives to adopt bi-partisan House Resolution 581, the Epstein Files Transparency Act, that would require the Attorney General to release unclassified files related to the federal investigation of Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell, and associates including government officials.

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2025, the U.S. House of Representatives (House) introduced bi-partisan Resolution 581, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 185) to advance responsible policies, that would require the House to vote on releasing unclassified files related to the federal investigation of Jeffrey Epstein; and

WHEREAS, if adopted, this Epstein Files Transparency Act will require the Attorney General, not later than 30 days, to make publicly available all unclassified records, documents, communications, and investigative materials in the possession of the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and United States Attorneys' Offices, that relate to Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxell, travel records, and individuals, including government officials, named in connection with Epstein's criminal activities and civil settlements, and entities with ties to Epstein; and

WHEREAS, this bill also requires that within 15 days of the completion of the release, the Attorney General shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary a report listing all categories of records released and withheld, a summary of redactions with legal basis, and a list of all government officials and politically exposed persons named in the released materials; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this bill is urgent, because American citizens have a right to know whether elected officials are involved in the illegal sex trafficking of children; and

WHEREAS, Donald Trump told Fox News' Rachel Compos-Duffy in June of 2024 that he would declassify the Epstein Files; and

WHEREAS, Donald Trump then told Alexei "Lex" Fridman in September of 2024 that he would release the files; and

WHEREAS, JD Vance told Theo Von "we need to release the Epstein list" in October of 2024; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Pam Bondi said in February of 2025 that the file was on her desk; and

WHEREAS, evidence of such a file was confirmed by said administration when 3 prominent podcasters were granted copies of "The Epstein Files: Phase 1" on February 27, 2025 and

WHEREAS, Council believes transparency should be the highest order for this Administration, and urges the House to vote for the Epstein Files Transparency Act; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council urges the U.S. House of Representatives to adopt bi-partisan House Resolution 581, the Epstein Files Transparency Act, that would require the Attorney General to release unclassified files related to the federal investigation of Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell, and associates including government officials.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to Ohio members of the U. S. House of Representatives.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

JHO:jho
8-13-2025
FOR: Council Member Harsh

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READ FIRST TIME and referred to **REPORTS**

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on AUGUST 13, 2025

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

Recorded Vol. **112** Page _____

Published in the City Record _____

READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

REPORT
after second Reading