

**Item # 38<sup>(4)</sup>**

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL**

**Regular Meeting**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2020**

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF**

**COMMISSIONER STEVE GELLER**

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RESOLUTION NO. 2020-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, CONSENTING TO THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN BROWARD COUNTY; URGING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO CONSENT TO THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA; DIRECTING THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AND THE BROWARD COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Senator Nan H. Rich)

WHEREAS, Broward County ("County") has welcomed refugees facing religious, ethnic, and political persecution for many years;

WHEREAS, the world is currently facing the worst refugee crisis in human history;

WHEREAS, by definition, refugees are individuals who have been forced to flee their home country due to persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or social group;

WHEREAS, resettlement is the last resort for refugees who cannot return to their home country and cannot rebuild their lives where they first fled;

WHEREAS, the County is currently the home of resettled refugees who may be joined by family members from whom they have been separated;

WHEREAS, community members, families, local organizations, and faith-based institutions have supported the arrival and integration of refugee families;

WHEREAS, refugees have a significant net positive effect on the local economy;

WHEREAS, local employers hire refugee employees to help grow their business;

1 WHEREAS, the United States government operates the U.S. Refugee Admissions  
2 Program ("Refugee Program") and mandates extensive refugee vetting for every refugee  
3 resettled to the United States;

4 WHEREAS, Executive Order 13888, *On Enhancing State and Local Involvement*  
5 *in Resettlement* ("Executive Order 13888"), requires that state and local governments  
6 consent to the resettlement of refugees in their communities through the Resettlement  
7 Program;

8 WHEREAS, the validity of Executive Order 13888 is presently being litigated and  
9 the issue of refugee resettlement is governed by federal law;

10 WHEREAS, the *FY 2020 Notice of Funding Opportunity for Reception and*  
11 *Placement Program* for nonprofits seeking to assist with the Refugee Program requires  
12 that for "each state and locality where the applicant proposes to resettle refugees during  
13 the award period, the applicant should seek written consent for resettlement of refugees  
14 from the state governor's office and the chief executive officer of the local government  
15 (county or county equivalent)";

16 WHEREAS, several nonprofit organizations have requested that the County  
17 consent to the resettlement of refugees; and

18 WHEREAS, by consenting to resettlement, Broward County would join 111  
19 localities that Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service reports have given their explicit  
20 consent, as of January 2, 2020, to continue the resettlement of refugees, NOW,

21 THEREFORE,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
24 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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Section 1. As required by Executive Order 13888, the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida ("Board"), hereby consents to the initial resettlement of refugees in the County by nonprofit organizations through the Resettlement Program.

Section 2. The Board states its consent trusting that the federal authority over this subject matter will be exercised prudently and fairly, and with an equitable provision of available federal resources to those communities consenting to welcome these federally-vetted individuals who were displaced due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Section 3. The Board directs the County Administrator to confirm in writing the Board's consent and to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

Section 4. The Board urges the Governor of Florida to consent to initial refugee resettlement as per the terms of Executive Order 13888.

Section 5. The Board directs the County Administrator to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Governor and to all members of the Broward County Legislative Delegation.

1 Section 6. The consent provided in this Resolution is valid unless or until  
2 withdrawn.

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4 Section 7. Severability.

5 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid  
6 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this  
7 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be  
8 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such  
9 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,  
10 group, entity, property, or circumstance.

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12 Section 8. Effective Date.

13 This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

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15 ADOPTED this            day of            , 2020.

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17 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:  
18 Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

19  
20 By /s/ Annika E. Ashton            01/23/2020  
21            Annika E. Ashton            (date)  
22            Deputy County Attorney

23 AEA/mdw  
24 Refugee Resettlement Reso.doc  
02/10/2020  
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