

PROPOSED

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, according to the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), "We are now witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. An unprecedented 70.8 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 25.9 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. There are also millions of stateless people who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement";

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;

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

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

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

5 WHEREAS, the United States government operates the U.S. Refugee Admissions
6 Program (“Refugee Program”) and mandates extensive refugee vetting for every refugee
7 resettled to the United States;

8 WHEREAS, Executive Order 13888, *On Enhancing State and Local Involvement*
9 *in Resettlement* (“Executive Order 13888”), requires that state and local governments
10 consent to the resettlement of refugees in their communities through the Resettlement
11 Program;

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

18 WHEREAS, several nonprofit organizations have requested that the County
19 consent to the resettlement of refugees;

20 WHEREAS, on January 2, 2020, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
21 (“LIRS”) recognized that 42 states had provided consent to refugee resettlement as
22 required by Executive Order 13888 and only one state (Texas) has explicitly refused to
23 consent to resettle refugees; and

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1 WHEREAS, by consenting to resettlement, Broward County would join 111
2 localities that LIRS reports have given their explicit consent to continue the resettlement
3 of refugees, NOW, THEREFORE,

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5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
6 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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8 Section 1. As required by Executive Order 13888, the Board of County
9 Commissioners of Broward County, Florida ("Board"), hereby consents to the initial
10 resettlement of refugees in the County.

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12 Section 2. The Board directs the County Administrator to confirm in writing the
13 Board's consent and to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the U.S. Department
14 of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

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16 Section 3. The Board urges the Governor of Florida to consent to initial refugee
17 resettlement as per the terms of Executive Order 13888.

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19 Section 4. The Board directs the County Administrator to transmit a certified
20 copy of this Resolution to the Governor and to all members of the Broward County
21 Legislative Delegation.

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23 Section 5. The consent provided in this Resolution is valid unless or until
24 withdrawn.

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Section 6. Severability.

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

Section 7. Effective Date.

This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this day of , 2020.

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

By /s/ Annika E. Ashton 01/30/2020
Annika E. Ashton (date)
Deputy County Attorney

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Refugee Resettlement Reso.doc
01/30/2020
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