

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SIGNATURE OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON A LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE COMMUNICATING THE CONSENT OF WASHTENAW COUNTY TO THE CONTINUED RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 8, 2020

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has welcomed refugees facing religious, ethnic and political persecution for several hundred years; and

WHEREAS, the world is currently facing one of the worst humanitarian crises in human history; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the United States has the most extensive refugee vetting in the world; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County is currently the home of resettled refugees who will likely be joined by family members in the upcoming year; and

WHEREAS, churches and families have supported the arrival and integration of refugee families for several years; and

WHEREAS, several local businesses depend on refugees to meet labor demands; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2019, the Board of Commissioners passed resolution 19-219, which affirmed the continued resettlement of refugees within the County; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the County Administrator's Office and Corporation Counsel

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners consents to the resettlement of refugees within borough limits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners authorizes the signature of the Chair of the Board on a letter to the United States Secretary of State communicating this consent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be transmitted to State of Michigan, Office of Global Michigan, MI Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity.

