

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has historically been a place that has welcomed refugees from all over the world in times of crisis, including victims of war and genocide in Europe, and most recently from El Salvador, Iraq, Somalia, and Syria, among others countries; and

WHEREAS, Afghanistan is at a tipping point after the collapse of the Afghanistan government following a national takeover by the Taliban; and

WHEREAS, according to the Watson Institute for International Affairs at Brown University, close to 241,000 people have been killed in the Afghanistan and Pakistan war zone since 2001, of which more than 71,000 of those killed have been civilians; and

WHEREAS, Afghan civilians are desperately trying to escape a still volatile conflict zone in which drone warfare, assassinations, crossfire, and suicide bombings continue to be a daily occurrence, and are seeking asylum elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has warned that up to half a million Afghans could flee the country by the end of the year and has called on neighboring countries to keep their borders open; and

WHEREAS, this war has seen the involvement of the United States and multiple presidential administrations in this region for more than 20 years, and it is the responsibility of our nation to support innocent Afghan bystanders, many of whom worked alongside allied forces; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has announced that over the course of the next year, the United States will welcome 95,000 Afghan refugees fleeing the crisis that has unfolded in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, according to the Migration Policy Institute, in 2020, California received the most refugees in the country; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has one of the largest Afghan populations in the country and will likely continue to be the place where most of the diaspora resettles; and

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WHEREAS, there are existing and newly formed organizations, philanthropic partners, and grassroots collaboratives in the City of Los Angeles who have vast experience, knowledge, and cultural sensitivity in working with the Afghan community who should be engaged on this effort; and

WHEREAS, this is a transformative moment, and this conflict remains one of the emblematic economic, political, and moral crises of our times; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles will play a critical role in supporting Afghan refugees and should prepare to position itself as a leader in this humanitarian emergency by partnering with our State and Federal government and requesting the necessary resources to successfully resettle Afghan refugees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 State and Federal Legislative Program support for legislation or administrative action to aid the City in its urgent effort to successfully resettle Afghan refugees with resources for case management, comprehensive service assistance to arriving Afghan refugees, and coordinated support between government agencies, non-profits, philanthropic partners, mental health service providers and religious organizations, in accordance with previously established and proven best practices for emergency resettlement.

PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:


