

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 20-0072 Commitment to Refugee Resettlement in Denver

WHEREAS, A refugee is a person who is outside their country of nationality and is unable or unwilling to return owing to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion and thus requires international protection; and

WHEREAS, When people flee their own country and seek refuge in another country applying for the right to be recognized as a refugee, they must demonstrate that their fear of persecution in their home country is well-founded, including participation in a thorough and lengthy vetting process; and

WHEREAS, According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees there are an estimated 25.9 million refugees worldwide, with over half under the age of 18, and from 1980 to 2019 approximately 63,541 refugees and asylees have resettled in Colorado, with 80% settling in Metro Denver; and

WHEREAS, Due to federal policy changes/actions 2017 was the first year since the adoption of the 1980 U.S. Refugee Act that the U.S. resettled fewer refugees than the rest of the world, with a total of 2,077 settled in Colorado, continuing to decrease by more than half to 882 in 2018, and 672 as of November of 2019; and

WHEREAS, These refugee resettlement policy changes continue with the recent requirement that local municipalities and states consent to receive refugees which can further limit the admittance and reunification of families throughout the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Refugees are resilient, hard workers who pay taxes, start businesses, purchase homes, revitalize towns, and become U.S. citizens, and are an asset to the economy and the rich cultural diversity of the City and County of Denver; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of Denver has joined a growing list of supporters, including 42 governors and over 90 local leaders to date, in making a statement of consent to continue to receive refugee resettlement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver reaffirms and supports the City's statement of consent that refugees resettlement will continue to be accepted, and that refugees are welcomed and valued members of our community

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the refugee resettlement service providers.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL January 27, 2020

_____ PRESIDENT