

Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE SHENG THAO

RESOLUTION URGING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO WELCOME AFGHAN REFUGEES, URGING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ACCEPT AFGHAN REFUGEES, AND DECLARING THE CITY OF OAKLAND'S SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

WHEREAS, in February 2020, the Afghan Taliban signed a peace agreement with the United States ("US") ahead of a proposed withdrawal of US troops, and in April 2021, President Biden announced that US military forces would leave Afghanistan by September 11, 2021 after a 20-year conflict; and

WHEREAS, the Taliban ramped up attacks on Afghan National Defense and Security Forces bases and outposts, and on August 15, 2021, Taliban fighters entered the capital, leading Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to flee the country and the Afghan government to collapse; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing uncertainty and violence in Afghanistan and the takeover of the Afghan government by the Taliban has created a humanitarian crisis, with rapidly deteriorating human rights and reductions in safety particularly for vulnerable individuals, including, but not limited to: women and girls, members of the LGBTQ+ community, those who have direct ties to the U.S. government and military, members of ethnic minority communities, those who are Shi'a Muslim, adherents of non-Muslim faiths, including those of Sikh and Hindu faiths, and individuals who work for or have ties to aid organizations; and

WHEREAS, many Afghan citizens, government employees, interpreters, translators, and Afghan National Defense and Security Forces personnel who supported our service members while they were serving in Afghanistan now find their lives and their family's lives in jeopardy under Taliban rule; and

WHEREAS, refugees and their families face a multitude of challenges when arriving in the United States and transitioning to a new life, including but not limited to; resettlement, language barriers, financial hardship, accessing education, finding work and legal status; and

WHEREAS, federal and state leaders in California, specifically in the Bay Area, home to the largest concentration of Afghans and Afghan Americans in the United States, have the unique and moral responsibility to welcome Afghan refugees into our communities, while honoring the commitments of the United States government, assisting in the evacuation of vulnerable groups, providing support to organizations who will serve the refugee community, and showing support for the Afghan community during this difficult time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council urges Biden Administration to act immediately to bring vulnerable Afghan refugees and their families to the United States; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council urges the State of California to accept more Afghan refugees than any other U.S. State; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland hereby supports and welcomes refugees from Afghanistan into our community and calls upon our residents, community leaders, businesses, faith-based organizations, and community-based organizations to welcome and support these Afghan families to achieve their inherent right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____

ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California