

RESOLUTION #13-R-21

Support for Resettlement of Afghanistan Parolees in Appleton

Date: September 1, 2021

Submitted By :Vered Meltzer – District 2, Denise Fenton – District 6, Maiyoua Thao – District 7, Alex Schultz – District 9, Nate Wolff – District 12

Referred To: Community & Economic Development Committee

WHEREAS, upon the collapse of the Afghanistan government and the Taliban takeover of Kabul which precipitated the emergency US led mass airlift, roughly 125,000 Afghan citizens have fled their home country and may be seeking asylum abroad with as many as 50,000 arriving in the US on “humanitarian parole” without visas; and

WHEREAS, thousands of these Afghan citizens supported American and allied forces, standing side-by-side with our service members, diplomats, and aid workers while serving as interpreters, engineers, logistical service providers, and more; and

WHEREAS, the city of Appleton, which became a Compassion City in 2010 under the Earth Charter's Charter for Compassion Campaign, has historically been a haven for refugees escaping war and political violence; and

WHEREAS, World Relief Fox Valley, the local refugee resettlement agency and its well-established refugee resettlement program, which has welcomed 1000 refugees since its inception in 2012, is preparing for the anticipated arrival of 100 Afghan parolees to the Appleton and Oshkosh communities it serves and will need additional resources for this lesser classification of arriving parolees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of Appleton wishes to offer a home in Appleton for those who were evacuated due to the war in Afghanistan and hereby affirms to the United States federal government that the City of Appleton stands ready to welcome Afghan humanitarian parolees, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council of Appleton directs the department of Community and Economic Development to coordinate any necessary response with county, state, and federal government departments and agencies, in accordance with previously established and proven best practices for emergency resettlement, as well as offer any additional assistance it can to facilitate rapid response housing options within the City of Appleton.