

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARRISONBURG,
VIRGINIA CONSENTING TO CONTINUED INITIAL RESETTLEMENT OF
REFUGEES IN THE CITY OF HARRISONBURG**

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisonburg has welcomed refugees facing persecution for many years; and,

WHEREAS, the world is currently facing the worst refugee crisis 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, nationality, 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 government operates the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and mandates extensive vetting for every refugee resettled to the United States; and,

WHEREAS the City of Harrisonburg is currently the home of resettled refugees who may be joined by family members from whom they have been separated; and,

WHEREAS, community members, families, local organizations and faith-based institutions have supported the arrival and integration of refugee families for several years; and,

WHEREAS, refugees have a significant net positive effect on the local economy; and,

WHEREAS several local employers hire refugee employees to help grow their business; and,

WHEREAS, the Notice of Funding Opportunity for Reception and Placement Program requires applicants to seek written consent for resettlement of refugees from the chief executive officer of the local county or county equivalent government; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Harrisonburg has the authority to consent to the resettlement of refugees as the governing body of an independent incorporated community as set out in Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia that is designated a county equivalent by the Census Bureau;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA, this 10th day of December, 2019 that with regards to federal Executive Order 13888 “*On Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement*,” the City Council of the Harrisonburg of Virginia consents to the initial resettlement of refugees and directs the City Manager to expressly confirm so in writing to the US Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration upon passing of this resolution, with a copy of this resolution to be transmitted to the US Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this consent shall remain valid unless or until withdrawn.

Approved this 10th day of December, 2019

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK