

HAYWARD CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 21-\_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION WELCOMING AND CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF AFGHAN  
REFUGEES THAT MAY RESETTLE IN HAYWARD AND THE GREATER BAY  
AREA

WHEREAS, on July 17, 1973, King Mohammad Zahir Shah of Afghanistan abdicated the throne after 40 years of a peaceful monarch rule due to a coup d'état by his cousin, Mohammed Daoud Khan, which propelled Afghanistan into decades of conflict; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 2.6 million registered refugees in the world from Afghanistan, more than one in ten of all refugees, and there are many more who haven't been registered or who are currently asylum-seekers; and

WHEREAS, there are more than two million people who have been internally displaced by the ongoing conflict; and

WHEREAS, the humanitarian crisis and the rapidly deteriorating human rights and reductions in safety, particularly for vulnerable individuals, including, but not limited to, women and girls, LGBTQIA+ community members, religious and ethnic minorities, and those that have served the United States government or have ties to aid organizations; 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, understanding cultural nuances, financial hardship, accessing education, finding work, and confirming legal status; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area and specifically Alameda County are home to the largest concentration of Afghans and Afghan Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, federal and state leaders in California and the greater Bay Area have the unique and moral responsibility to welcome Afghan refugees in 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; and

WHEREAS, local agencies in the Bay Area region have established a model of emergency refugee, asylum, and migrant care and resettlement services, and that model can be tailored for specific language and cultural competencies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hayward recognizes the historic impact of the war in Afghanistan on our nation's Armed Forces, and recognizes that the sons and daughters who left California to serve in Afghanistan were aided and comforted by the very Afghan people who were guaranteed the salvation of immigration to the United States in exchange for their work alongside our service members; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hayward has been coordinating efforts to support newly arriving Afghan refugees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Hayward declares that there is a home in California here in the Heart of the Bay for the refugees of the war in Afghanistan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests that the Federal Government, State of California, and County of Alameda work closely together and communicate regularly with City officials regarding the circumstances of the new arrivals so that the City and other partners can coordinate the appropriate responsive efforts.

IN COUNCIL, HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:            COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
                     MAYOR:

NOES:           COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ABSTAIN:       COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ABSENT:        COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
                 City Clerk of the City of Hayward

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney of the City of Hayward