



City of Alexandria, Virginia
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



Justin M. Wilson
Mayor

Office: 703.746.4500
Fax: 703.838.6433
justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov

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The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
2201 C St. N.W
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

At its most recent meeting, the Alexandria City Council adopted a resolution affirming the City's support for the resettlement of refugees in the City of Alexandria. A copy of that resolution is attached.

This resolution was in response to executive order #13888, recently signed by President Trump, entitled "Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement," which requires that the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services seek consent from state and local authorities prior to continuing ongoing refugee resettlement activities.

Pending any official process, this resolution serves as our effort to clearly signal our support for refugee resettlement in our community.

The City of Alexandria has long embraced the resettlement of refugees and those immigrating into the United States. In its adopted 2016 Statement on Inclusiveness, Council stated: "we proclaim that we remain committed to diversity and to fostering an atmosphere of inclusiveness". The City's population is very diverse. In 2016, it was estimated that there were nearly 7,200 refugees living in the City of Alexandria. Refugees have had an ongoing positive impact on our community through employment in professional, service, trades and business occupations, and through their participation in every facet of community life. Refugees, and eventually their children, become self-sufficient taxpaying residents and ultimately taxpaying citizens.

Clearly the contributions made by immigrants and refugees add to the strength and vibrancy of the City of Alexandria underscore this communication to the federal and state governments of the City's strong desire to continue to be a place where refugees may settle.

Sincerely,

Justin M. Wilson
Mayor, City of Alexandria