



RESOLUTION # 24-9/21

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 9-11

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 27
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 2
Vote Req: Majority
Other Action: -

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
ACTION**

Adopted:
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 1

RE: PROCLAIMING SUPPORT OF WELCOMING AFGHAN REFUGEES FLEEING PERSECUTION AND TERROR INTO OUR COUNTRY AND SALUTING THE WORK OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, NUMEROUS FAITH ORGANIZATIONS AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP WHO ARE ENGAGED IN THIS ENDEAVOR

WHEREAS, La Crosse County is home to many military members and veterans who served and sacrificed in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel as part of our nation's Global War on Terrorism in response to the September 11, 2001 attacks, forming a lasting bond with the People of Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. fight against Taliban forces following the September 11, 2001 attacks expressed American solidarity with Afghan people in their fight for democracy, women's rights, free speech and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. departure from Afghanistan, after roughly 20 years of combat, involvement and untold valor from our American troops and remarkable sacrifices from their families and loved ones here at home, will result in many Afghan refugees, many of whom fought and worked along American troops for the last two decades, to seek and flee persecution sometimes based on their support of the United States and our mission; and

WHEREAS, people in La County sincerely appreciate the work and valor of our Armed Forces in Afghanistan and their sacrifices, including the solemn sacrifices of the families of the fallen. This includes their work in protecting everyday Afghans from the terror and repression they now prospectively flee; and

WHEREAS, there are many in Afghanistan who not only supported the United States' mission, but supported our troops and military personnel through acts of difficult labor and courage, and took the lead in creating a more inclusive society, actions that place them at risk in Afghanistan today; and

WHEREAS La Crosse County's population includes persons fleeing or who have fled oppression, violence and persecution from many lands and nations from all over the world and from every religious faith in the world, and many Americans whose families are now part of the fabric of La Crosse County come from households that were at one time refugee households, and refugees often become some of the most patriotic Americans and they enrich our culture and economy through their personal stories, values and work ethic, and they enhance La Crosse and help make it the exceptional County and community it is today; and

WHEREAS, La Crosse County has a proud heritage of welcoming refugees to our communities and was the site of arrival for large groups of refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia in 1975 and thereafter among other refugee groups; and

WHEREAS, we affirm our solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and our friendship with all who labor for freedom among the nations of the world; and

WHEREAS, many of the first Afghan allies admitted into the U.S. this summer and housed at Fort McCoy arrive as Special Immigrant Visa applicants or as at-risk Afghans and are also compassionately referred to as special immigrants or as guests of the U.S.; and

RE: PROCLAIMING SUPPORT OF WELCOMING AFGHAN REFUGEES FLEEING PERSECUTION AND TERROR INTO OUR COUNTRY AND SALUTING THE WORK OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, NUMEROUS FAITH ORGANIZATIONS AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP WHOSE WORK WHO ARE ENGAGED IN THIS ENDEAVOR

WHEREAS, a strong local coalition in La Crosse County made up of non-profits and faith organizations is leading efforts to assist these refugees including special immigrants as they land at Fort McCoy in neighboring Monroe County, including Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services, Catholic Charities, the American Red Cross, and church, mosque and synagogue houses of worship, and they are coordinating efforts such as collecting supplies and have indicated a desire to assist in resettling refugees around the country and in this county, as well as to help provide housing, job placement, food, mentorship and other assistance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of La Crosse proudly proclaims its support of refugee families living within our County, State and our United States, and expresses its support of welcoming Afghan refugees and special immigrants fleeing persecution and terror into our nation, county and local communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of La Crosse shall work with cities and other governmental units within our county and other applicable public entities and local religious, civic and charitable organizations to assure that we will be a welcoming community that accepts Afghan refugees and special immigrant visa holders as guests and possible future neighbors and shall actively promote this welcoming attitude.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of La Crosse salutes the work of non-profit organizations, numerous faith organizations and houses of worship that do remarkable work for our refugee population, and whose work will be needed in this endeavor, and invites its community residents to help our newest neighbors find affordable housing, employment, food and mentorship and other ways to help the transition into our community in their new home country.

FISCAL NOTE: No cost to La Crosse County

Date: 9/8/21
[Signature]
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 9-8-21
[Signature]
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.		<u>50</u>		Requested By: Maureen Freedland and Rick Cornforth Date Requested: August 31, 2021 Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Fin. Director	<u>[Signature]</u>			
Corp. Counsel	<u>[Signature]</u>			
Board Chair	<u>[Signature]</u>			

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 16 Day of September, 2021

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE
I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 16th day of September 2021.
[Signature]
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk