

A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THAT THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG CONSENTS AFFIRMATIVELY TO PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER 13888, REQUIRING STATE AND LOCAL CONSENT TO ALLOW THE CONTINUATION OF THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM WITHIN THE CORPORATION LIMITS OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG

WHEREAS, refugee resettlement has had a long history in Franklin County with broad community support for the economic and cultural contributions of those individuals who first settle in Central Ohio as refugees; 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 who have been extensively vetted by and are processing through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 13888 on September 26, 2019, which requires states and local governments to consent to receive refugees under the U.S. Department of State's Reception and Placement Program; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2015 Impact of Refugees in Central Ohio Report, the total yearly contribution of refugees in Franklin County is \$1.6 billion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Reynoldsburg remains committed to creating an open, inclusive, compassionate and welcoming place for all who live, work and raise families here; and

WHEREAS, although not every local jurisdiction in Franklin County has had refugee resettlement in the past, it is important to make a collective statement of welcome and inclusion as our regional economy continues to grow in both population and diversity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO, that:

Section 1. The City of Reynoldsburg hereby supports and consents to receive refugees under the U.S. Department of State's Reception and Placement Program.

Section 2. The City of Reynoldsburg remains committed to creating an open, inclusive, compassionate, and welcoming place for all who live, work and raise families here.

Section 3. This Resolution is in effective immediately upon passage.

Passed this 27th day of January, 2020.


Leanora Jenkins, Council President

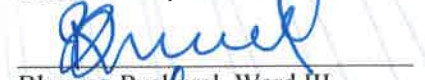

Barth R. Cotner, At Large


Kristin Bryant, At Large


Stacie Baker, At Large


Shanette Strickland, Ward I


Louis Salvati, Ward II


Bhuwan Pyakurel, Ward III


Meredith Lawson-Rowe, Ward IV

January 28, 2020

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

RE: City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio Consent for Resettlement of Refugees

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

This letter is to formally notify you that the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio unambiguously consents to accept the initial resettlement of any refugees in our City.

I am the Mayor for the City of Reynoldsburg. This letter has the legislative authorization of the Reynoldsburg City Council passed by resolution on January 13, 2020.

Reynoldsburg has a long and proud history of being an Inclusive community that welcomes all people.

This consent is unconditionally given and is not conditioned on the acceptance of only certain refugees or on any other factor, such as refugee race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin.

The City of Reynoldsburg's willingness to consent to the resettlement of refugees is not dependent on the executive order, but only on compliance with the federal immigration laws.

This consent shall remain valid unless or until it is withdrawn in writing by myself or a subsequent City Mayor.

Respectfully,



Joseph Begeny
Mayor, City of Reynoldsburg

cc: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Carol T. O'Connell
Reynoldsburg City Council

January 28, 2020

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

RE: City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio Consent for Resettlement of Refugees

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I am the Auditor for the City of Reynoldsburg. This letter is attached to the legislation passed by the Reynoldsburg City Council on January 27, 2020.

Reynoldsburg was founded by families seeking the liberty that only came from living in the United States of America. Reynoldsburg was also a documented stop on the Underground Railroad in the 1800s.

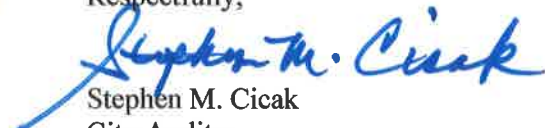
Reynoldsburg is the home of the first Bhutanese American elected official Bhuwan Pyakurel and his family.

I am a proud fourth-generation American on both sides of my family tree. My Great Grandparents and Grandparents all immigrants and were naturalized US citizens from Austria-Hungary and Czech-Slovakia arriving through Ellis Island during the early 1900s. They served in the Armed Forces earning the Silver Star, Flew the "Hump" mission 200 times in Burma during WWII, flew aid to people Berlin behind the Iron Curtain, and served on City Council. I have and owned businesses as well as fought for the rights of coal miners to organize one of the very first labor unions in North-Eastern Pennsylvania.

Legal immigration is key to keeping our United States of America fresh with new ideas. Refugees are legal immigrants, who have demonstrated that they were persecuted or feared persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

I welcome them to the City of Reynoldsburg.

Respectfully,



Stephen M. Cicak
City Auditor
City of Reynoldsburg

cc: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Carol T. O'Connell
Reynoldsburg City Council