

A RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION DECLARING COUNTY COUNCIL'S OPPOSITION TO THE RELOCATION OF REFUGEES FROM THE UNITED STATES REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM IN THIS COUNTY AND THE REJECTION OF STATE FUNDS TO ASSIST IN THE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, County Council is the elected governing body authorized to adopt appropriate ordinances, resolutions and police powers to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has indicated that thousands of refugees from the Middle East will be relocated to the United States in the next few years through the Refugee Resettlement Program; and

WHEREAS, this resettlement is being directed and largely funded through a federal program under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that each state will receive these refugees through designated relocation agencies approved by the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, the refugee relocation as presently arranged will present serious problems to the local jurisdiction in financial and security areas for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, this resettlement process will create financial areas of concern with refugees and their families presenting unfunded burdens to schools, law enforcement, living arrangements, and health care providers for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, Michael Steinbach, Assistant Director for the FBI, informed the House Homeland Security Committee in February, 2015, that Syrian refugees “pose a greater risk to Americans” and raise the possibility that refugees could have connections to foreign terrorist groups; and

WHEREAS, at another hearing held October 22nd, FBI Director James Comey issued another warning about the FBI's ability to screen Syrian refugees entering the U.S. (<https://refugeeresettlementwatch.wordpress.com/2015/10/22/fbi-director-james-comey-says-it-again-they-cannot-screen-syrian-refugees-entering-the-us/>); and

WHEREAS, the County Council hereby expresses its concern over United States Refugee Resettlement Program, and any possible State expenditures for the program in this county: and

Whereas, the County Council strongly favors a moratorium on all refugees coming into the state until the vetting problems and other problems associated with the Refugee Resettlement Program can be addressed by Congress;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this County Council does not approve of the state proceeding with the United States Refugee Resettlement Program and rejects the expenditure of federal and state funds to assist the United States Refugee Resettlement Program in this County.