



Resolution

In support of June 20th being recognized as World Refugee Day in Winooski

Whereas, the City of Winooski, Vermont is proud to be the most diverse community in the state of Vermont, and in our region of the United States; and

Whereas, nearly 60 million people worldwide are displaced by violence, political strife, or natural disaster and forced to become Refugees; and

Whereas, Winooski, Vermont recognizes the tremendous work of statewide organizations like the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Vermont office, local entities like the Association of Africans Living in Vermont, and the international tone set by the United Nations Refugee Agency; and

Whereas, Winooski, Vermont has a long and proud tradition of being a community that welcomes Refugees as New Americans and valued members of our community since Vermont became a Refugee Resettlement location in 1989; and

Whereas, we recognize the value that diversity in our community contributes to the vibrancy of our unique cultural fabric in Winooski which makes our community an exciting place to live; and

Whereas, the residents of Winooski have seized upon many opportunities to develop supportive networks for welcoming new residents and regularly demonstrate public expressions of support for initiatives to welcome refugees as neighbors and valued members of the community; and

Whereas, we recognize that diversity in our community sparks curiosity among community members, and offers an opportunity for residents to experience a cultural richness when they explore the different life experiences of their neighbors; and

Whereas, we are able to identify the important civic roles that New Americans play in our community, as neighbors, parents, and active participants for local events, boards, commissions, and committees; and

Whereas, we recognize the important contribution that former Refugees bring to the economic vitality of our community, our region, and our state - acting as valued employees, innovative business leaders, entrepreneurs, and consumers; and

Whereas, Winooski, Vermont prospers when we work together with all of our neighbors to achieve a sense of community where all feel welcome, valued, safe; and

Whereas, Winooski, Vermont recognizes that global resettlement needs dictate that our community, region, state, and nation will be called upon to offer refuge to those who are displaced – and we stand in support of Refugees having the right to become our neighbors and rebuild their lives in their new home; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City of Winooski declares support for welcoming refugees to our community regardless of their nationality, place of origin, religion, or race; and the City of Winooski does hereby proclaim June 20th as World Refugee Day, as we stand united to commemorate the strength, courage, and resilience of the millions of refugees around the world; including Refugees who have come to call Winooski home.

Affirmative Vote:

Mayor

Councilor

Councilor

Councilor

Councilor

Adopted

Rejected

Attest (City Clerk)

Approved Date