

RESOLUTION
A RESOLUTION OF THE WINONA CITY COUNCIL
WELCOMING AFGHAN REFUGEES TO OUR COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, The City of Winona is home to many military members, veterans, and families of veterans who served and sacrificed in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel, 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; and

WHEREAS, Taliban forces took control of Afghanistan August 15, 2021, sending Afghan people who fought and worked alongside American troops for the last two decades in search of safe haven; and

WHEREAS, locally and regionally there is a proud heritage of welcoming refugees to our communities including the City of Winona being the first Welcoming America City in Minnesota; 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, Jewish Social Services of Madison, Wisconsin, on behalf of the U.S. State Department, is leading the coordination effort to resettle refugees around the country, to help provide housing, job placement, food, mentorship and other assistance; and

WHEREAS, a strong local coalition made up of non-profits and faith organization are leading efforts to collect supplies needed for these refugees as they land at Fort McCoy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Winona, Minnesota, that the City of Winona welcomes all who seek freedom and refuge from the oppressive Taliban regime and invites the local and regional community to volunteer with local faith based relief efforts and other organizations to help our new neighbors find affordable housing, employment, food and mentorship to help them transition into our community in their new home country.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Scott D. Sherman
Mayor

Attest:

Monica Hennessy Mohan
City Clerk