File No. 211013

Committee Item	No.	
Board Item No.	45	

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee:		Date:	
Board of Sup	pervisors Meeting	Date:	September 28, 2021
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Prepared by:		Date:	September 24, 2021

[Urging Support for Afghan Refugees]

Resolution urging our state and federal leaders to bring in more at-risk and vulnerable Afghan people to the United States, and that Afghan evacuees and their families be supported in their transition to American life and granted access to significant opportunities and benefits.

WHEREAS, The ongoing uncertainty and violence in Afghanistan has created a humanitarian crisis, with rapidly deteriorating human rights and reductions in safety particularly for vulnerable individuals, including, but not limited to: women and children, members of the LGBTQ community, those who have direct ties to the U.S. government and military, members of ethnic minority communities, those who are Shi'a Muslim, adherents of non-Muslim faiths, including those of Sikh and Hindu faiths, and individuals who work for or have ties to aid organizations; and

WHEREAS, Refugees and their families face a multitude of challenges when arriving in the United States and transitioning to a new life, including but not limited to: resettlement, language barriers, financial hardship, accessing education, finding work and legal status; and

WHEREAS, Federal and state leaders in California, specifically in the Bay Area, home to the largest concentration of Afghans and Afghan Americans in the United States, have the unique and moral responsibility to welcome Afghan refugees into our communities, while honoring the commitments of the United States government, assisting in the evacuation of vulnerable groups, providing support to organizations who will serve the refugee community,

WHEREAS, It is anticipated that California will receive 5,225 Afghan evacuees, more than any other state as part of the first phase of resettlement of 37,000 Afghan refugees; and

and showing support for the Afghan community during this difficult time; and

WHEREAS, The Biden administration has asked Congress to approve funding for the resettlement of nearly 100,000 more Afghan evacuees; and

WHEREAS, Afghans seeking refuge in the United States either assisted the American war effort in Afghanistan, or were determined to be at-risk in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan due to their status as women, journalists, activists, humanitarian workers, or American embassy staff; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports and welcomes refugees from Afghanistan into our community and urges our state and federal leaders to act immediately and with determination to rightfully bring at-risk and vulnerable Afghan peoples and their families to the United States for safety and prosperity and that they be afforded full benefits to transition into American life; specifically, the Board of Supervisors encourages California to accept more and house more Afghan refugees and supports access to significant opportunities and benefits to individuals and families arriving from Afghanistan, including, but not limited to: immediate eligibility for reception and placement afforded under Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) and refugee status conditions within a week of arriving on US soil; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of San Francisco shall do everything in its power to help with the resettlement of Afghan evacuees in our community; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution be forwarded to the Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom, Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp or meeting date I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one): 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment). ✓ 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee. 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee. 4. Request for letter beginning: "Supervisor inquiries" 5. City Attorney Request. 6. Call File No. from Committee. 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion). 8. Substitute Legislation File No. 9. Reactivate File No. 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following: Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission Ethics Commission **Building Inspection Commission** Planning Commission Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form. Sponsor(s): Haney Subject: Resolution Urging Support for Afghan Refugees. The text is listed: Resolution urging our state and federal leaders to bring in more at-risk and vulnerable Afghan people to the United States, and that Afghan evacuees and their families be supported in their transition to American life and granted access to significant opportunities and benefits.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

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