

File No. 191301

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 15

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: _____
Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: _____
Date: January 7, 2020

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- Mayor's Letter - 12/19/19
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Prepared by: Lisa Lew
Prepared by: _____

Date: January 3, 2020
Date: _____

1 [Supporting the Mayor's Consent to Continue Refugee Resettlement in the City]

2
3 **Resolution supporting the resettlement of refugees within the City and concurring in**
4 **the Mayor's consent to accept refugees in the City under the United States Department**
5 **of State's Reception and Replacement Program.**
6

7 WHEREAS, The City has a long history of accepting immigrants and refugees from
8 around the world and has implemented policies to help them thrive and feel safe, such as the
9 Sanctuary City Ordinance, Chapter 12H of the Administrative Code; and

10 WHEREAS, Refugees, by definition, are people outside the country of their nationality
11 and unable or unwilling to return to that country due to a well-founded fear of persecution
12 because of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political
13 opinion; and

14 WHEREAS, Resettlement is a humanitarian protection tool developed by the United
15 States and other countries as a last resort for refugees who cannot return to their home
16 country and cannot rebuild their lives in the country to which they first fled; and

17 WHEREAS, The U.S. State Department's Reception and Resettlement Program
18 provides placement and assistance to refugees for the first few months after they have been
19 accepted for resettlement in the United States, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human
20 Services provides assistance thereafter; and

21 WHEREAS, President Donald Trump reduced the annual cap on refugee admittance
22 from 110,000 in fiscal year 2017, to 30,000 in 2019, to just 18,000 in 2020, a historic low,
23 while according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees the number of
24 refugees worldwide approximately doubled between 2012 and 2018 to more than 20,000,000;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, On September 26, 2019, President Trump signed Executive Order 13888
2 entitled "Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement" (the "Executive
3 Order"), which purports to require state and local governments to consent to receive refugees
4 under the Reception and Placement Program before the federal government will resettle
5 refugees within such jurisdictions; and

6 WHEREAS, The Executive Order likely violates the federal Refugee Act, and refugee
7 resettlement organizations have sued to block the Executive Order; and

8 WHEREAS, The Executive Order does not comport with the goal of the refugee and
9 resettlement system, because it reduces the possible resettlement options available for this
10 vulnerable population of individuals who have already suffered extensively after being forced
11 from their countries of origin; and

12 WHEREAS, Consistent with the Sanctuary City Ordinance and other City policy, Mayor
13 London N. Breed sent a letter to Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, affirming the City's
14 consent under the Executive Order to continue receiving refugees, a copy which is available
15 in Board File No. 191301; and

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco values refugees and immigrants of all types for their
17 resilience, hard work ethic, and their significant contributions to the City's diverse and vibrant
18 communities and the local economy; and

19 WHEREAS, Without accepting the validity of the Executive Order, it is important for the
20 City to affirm its commitment to welcoming refugees and its opposition to President Trump's
21 drastic cuts in the number of refugees admitted to the United States; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the City supports a robust refugee resettlement system in the United
23 States and opposes actions by President Trump to slash the number of refugees accepted by
24 the United States and his efforts to undermine the efficacy of the program; and, be it
25

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors concurs with the Mayor's
2 consent under the Executive Order to continue receiving refugees in San Francisco; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That in such concurrence, the City does not concede that the
4 Executive Order complies with federal law, nor does it place a lawful condition on the
5 placement of refugees.

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SAN FRANCISCO



LONDON N. BREED
MAYOR

December 19, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

This letter is in reference to Executive Order 13888, "*On Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement.*"

I write to affirm that San Francisco consents to the resettlement of refugees within San Francisco under the Department of State's Reception and Placement Program. To alleviate the need for any subsequent consent to be given, this consent is given until revoked.

San Francisco nonetheless contends that Executive Order 13888 violates federal law, and by providing consent San Francisco does not concede that the Executive Order places a lawful condition on the placement of refugees. Refugee resettlement organizations have sued to block the Executive Order. The Executive Order not only violates the law, it undermines the goal of ensuring refugees have the best chance at succeeding in this country by limiting the places available for them to be resettled. The Executive Order stands against the values of acceptance and inclusivity upon which our country was founded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "London N. Breed".

London N. Breed
Mayor

cc: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Carol T. O'Connell, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, United States Department of State

Clerk of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors

1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 200
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-4681
TELEPHONE: (415) 554-6141

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SAN FRANCISCO



LONDON N. BREED
MAYOR

RECEIVED
12/17/2019 @ 5:00pm
SB

TO: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
FROM: Kanishka Cheng *kc*
RE: [Consenting to Continue Refugee Resettlement in the City]
DATE: Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Resolution supporting the resettlement of refugees within the City and concurring in the Mayor's consent to accept refugees in the City under the United States Department of State's Reception and Replacement Program.

Please note that President Yee is a co-sponsor of this legislation.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kanishka Cheng at 415.554.6696.