

HYATTSVILLE RESOLUTION 2016-01

A Resolution Concerning the Syrian Refugee Crisis and Immigration Enforcement Procedures

A RESOLUTION concerning the Syrian Refugee Crisis and Immigration Enforcement Procedures

For the purpose of expressing the City Council support for the importance of diversity, inclusiveness, and human rights in the City of Hyattsville, Prince George's County, and the State of Maryland.

WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded by those seeking to escape tyranny and secure for themselves and their posterity a better future; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has a history of attempting to right current and past wrongs, striving for freedom and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, Maryland was formed as a refuge for Catholics fleeing persecuted in England; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans can proudly trace their ancestry back to immigrants or refugees from other nations, and routinely celebrate the history, customs, and traditions of those lands; and

WHEREAS, all refugees should be treated with dignity, care, and compassion that every person deserves and the federal government's response to the potential deportation of children and families should be executed in the most humane and respectful manner possible; and

WHEREAS, Hyattsville has been enriched by the contributions of generations of people from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Hyattsville's diversity is one of our greatest strengths and our immigrant community is an integral part of the fabric that makes our city "A World within Walking Distance"; and

WHEREAS, a February 2016 study by the Syrian Centre for Policy Research estimates nearly a half million deaths since the start of the Syrian conflict in March 2011, with a total of 11.5% of the entire population wounded or killed, demonstrating the unspeakable depravation and violence faced by refugees fleeing Syria; and

WHEREAS, the number of refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria to neighboring countries has now eclipsed four million, thus confirming the Syrian refugee crisis as the world's single largest refugee crisis in almost a quarter century; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has stated that "we do not close our hearts to these victims of such violence and somehow start equating the issue of refugees with the issue of terrorism"; and

WHEREAS, Hyattsville joins with other Maryland jurisdictions, including Prince George's County, Montgomery County, Howard County and the City of Greenbelt, in expressing our dispositions to welcome refugees and immigrants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Hyattsville, Maryland, that the City expresses its support for the importance of diversity and inclusiveness by Prince George's County and the State of Maryland.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hyattsville continues to welcome all people, regardless of national origin or refugee status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Maryland Governor Lawrence Hogan, Maryland Congressional Delegation, District 22 Delegation, and Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III.

READ AND PASSED THIS 21th day of March, 2016.

BY ORDER: Mayor Candace B. Hollingsworth, I hereby certify that Resolution Number 2016-01 is true and correct and duly adopted by the City Council of Hyattsville.

ATTEST/WITNESS:

City of Hyattsville

Laura Reams, City Clerk

Candace B. Hollingsworth, Mayor