

RESOLUTION NO. 20210826-109

WHEREAS, after the collapse of the Afghanistan government and the Taliban takeover of Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city, many Afghan citizens are leaving the country and seeking asylum; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Afghan citizens supported American and allied forces, standing side-by-side with our service members, diplomats, and aid workers while serving as interpreters, engineers, logistical service providers, and more; and

WHEREAS, the city of Austin has historically been a haven for refugees escaping war and political violence; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, Refugee Services of Texas has welcomed more than 2,400 special immigrant visa holders from Afghanistan and Iraq into the Austin community and into our public schools, without controversy; and

WHEREAS, Afghan refugees are currently arriving in Texas cities, including in Austin, for resettlement; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

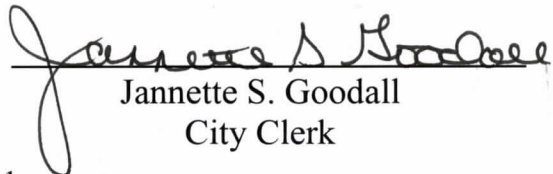
The City Council wishes to offer a home in Austin for the refugees of the war in Afghanistan and hereby notifies the United States federal government that the City of Austin stands ready to welcome Afghan refugees and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council directs the City Manager to coordinate any necessary response with county, state, and federal government departments and agencies in accordance with previously established and proven best practices for emergency resettlement.

ADOPTED: August 26, 2021

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk