



CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBER
CITY HALL ROOM 200
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

August 30, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We, the Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago and Chicago non-profit organizations stand ready, willing, and able to assist, resettle, and welcome Afghan refugees to Chicago. Our nation made a promise to the brave Afghans that stepped forward to protect our military, diplomatic, and NGO personnel in Afghanistan. Now is the time to keep our promise by evacuating our allies and finding safe places for them to live and thrive in the United States.

Chicago has long been a safe-haven for refugees escaping war and political violence. As a home to thousands of refugees, over 500,000 foreign-born residents, and emergency refugee resettlement services, this is an ideal place to resettle these families.

In recognition of their sacrifice working alongside our troops, diplomats and partner organizations, we invite Afghan refugees to join us in Chicago, to share our home, and to build something greater together.

In the coming months, we will work together with our refugee resettlement partners and the federal government to ensure refugees who arrive in our community have the most services possible to ease their transition and resettlement. We write to you today to formally notify you that Chicago stands ready as a partner to bring as many of our Afghan allies as possible out of danger and into a welcoming city in America.

Respectfully electronically signed,

Ald. Daniel La Spata (1st)
Ald. Susan Sadlowski Garza (10th)
Ald. George Cardenas (12th)
Ald. Michael Rodriguez (22nd)
Ald. Raymond Lopez (15th)
Ald. Jeanette Taylor (20th)
Ald. Carlos Ramirez Rosa (35th)
Ald. Gilbert Villegas (36th)

Ald. Ariel Reboyras (30th)
Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez (25th)
Ald. Chris Taliaferro (29th)
Ald. Scott Waguespack (32nd)
Ald. Rossana Rodriguez (33rd)
Ald. Michele Smith (43rd)
Ald. Samantha Nugent (39th)
Ald. Andre Vasquez (40th)

Ald. Jim Gardiner (45th)
Ald. James Cappleman (46th)
Ald. Matt Martin (47th)
Ald. Harry Osterman (48th)
Ald. Maria Hadden (49th)
Ald. Debra Silverstein (50th)

Along with the following 27 supporting organizations:

Agents of Hope Training & Information Center (AHTI)
Anti-Defamation League - Midwest Region
Apna Ghar (Our Home)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago
Building Peaceful Bridges (BPB)
Heartland Alliance
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) –
University of Chicago & Northwestern Chapters
JCFS Chicago/HIAS Immigration and Citizenship
Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA)
Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago
Middle Eastern Immigrant and Refugee Alliance (MIRA)
Muslims for Progressive Values
National Association for Multicultural Education - IL

Chicago Board of Rabbis
Chicago Jewish Coalition for Refugees
Chicago Refugee Coalition
GirlForward
National Lawyers Guild – Chicago
Refugee Action Network
Refugee Education & Adventure Challenge (REACH)
RefugeeOne
She Votes Illinois
Syrian Community Network (SCN)
Truman National Security Project – Chicago Chapter
United Nations Association of Greater Chicago
World Relief Chicagoland