

Resolution No.

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT UNDER THE
REFUGEE ACT OF 1980 (8 U.S.C. 1522) WITHIN THE COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA**

WHEREAS, the County of Eau Claire is a designated federal refugee relocation County by the Eau Claire City Manager, and part of Eau Claire is in Chippewa County, and World Relief engaged in overseas relief in the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1552(1)(A)(iii) “local voluntary agency activities should be conducted in close cooperation and advance consultation with State and local governments (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1552(2)(A): “The Director and the Federal agency administering subsection (b)(1), shall consult regularly (not less often than quarterly) with State and local governments and private nonprofit voluntary agencies concerning the sponsorship process and the intended distribution of refugees among the States and localities before their placement in those States and localities” (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1552(2)(B): “The Director shall develop and implement, in consultation with representatives of voluntary agencies and State and local governments, policies and strategies for the placement and resettlement of refugees within the United States” (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1552(2)(C)(ii) that the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement will “provide for a mechanism whereby representatives of local affiliates of voluntary agencies regularly (not less often than quarterly) meet with representatives of State and local governments to plan and coordinate in advance of their arrival the appropriate placement of refugees among the various State and localities, (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, an email dated March 23, 2023, stated by Amosheh Hamzehee (Associate Analyst from the City of Eau Claire Manager’s office) in part, “We have been assessing the feasibility of increasing the City’s capacity to host immigrants and refugees with the two goals of addressing employee shortages and promoting a more multi-cultural community.”; and

WHEREAS, there has been no disclosure of any data produced by Amosheh Hamzehee to this date, and

WHEREAS, the overall quality of life for Chippewa County residents will continue to be adversely impaired by excessive demands on local resources if primary resettlement continues; and

47 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Chippewa declares a moratorium on the
48 placement of refugees through primary resettlement until World Relief demonstrates the following: (1)
49 they are in full compliance with the aforementioned federal statutes; (2) an objective independent
50 economic impact study detailing all costs to taxpayers for refugees has been completed and reviewed by
51 the County Board; and (3) the County of Chippewa is informed how the capacity number of 75 primary
52 resettlement refugees was determined and what matrix is being used to determine future annual
53 resettlement allocations. This moratorium allows time for the next budget considerations for 2025; and

54 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Administrator provide copies of
55 this resolution to the World Relief, all federal, state, and locally elected representatives representing
56 citizens in Chippewa County.

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58 Forwarded to the County Board by the Executive Committee.

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60 **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

61 Unknown

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63 **01/2/2024 Executive Committee**

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Approved as to Form:

Todd A. Pauls

Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

12/20/2023

Lori Zwiefelhofer

Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

12/21/2023

Randy B. Scholz

Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

12/21/2023

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