

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING PRIOR TO RELOCATION OF THE REFUGEES, WORLD RELIEF ARRANGE AN INDEPENDENT ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY REGARDING COSTS TO TAXPAYERS BE COMPLETED AND REVIEWED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND A DISCLOSURE FROM WORLD RELIEF REGARDING HOW THE CAPACITY OF 75 PRIMARY RESETTLEMENT REFUGEES WAS DETERMINED

WHEREAS, the County of Eau Claire is a designated federal refugee relocation city by the Eau Claire City Manager 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. 1522(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. 1522(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. 1522(2)(8): "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. 1522(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 States and localities, (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the City of Eau Claire has 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 there has been no disclosure of the data considered; and

WHEREAS, the relocation of refugees to Eau Claire could impact the quality of life for Eau Claire County residents due to the possibility of excessive demands on local resources if primary resettlement continues.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors recommend prior to the relocation of the refugees, World Relief arrange an independent economic impact study regarding costs to taxpayers be completed and reviewed by the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED requests a disclosure from World Relief regarding how the capacity of 75 primary resettlement refugees was determined and to allow the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors to study the impact to the 2025 Eau Claire County Budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Clerk provide copies of this resolution to World Relief, Eau Claire City Manager, the State Refugee Resettlement Coordinator, the United States Secretary of State and all federal, state, and local elected representatives representing citizens in Eau Claire County.

SPONSORED BY:

Supervisor Allen Myren, District 9  
Supervisor Cory Sisk, District 8  
Supervisor Larry Hoekstra, District 5  
Supervisor Robin Leary, District 23  
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