

1 **CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-52**

3 **INTRODUCED BY:**

4  
5 Mayor Alan Webber

6 Councilor Michael Garcia

Councilor JoAnne Vigil Coppler

7 Councilor Renee Villarreal

Councilor Jamie Cassutt

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11 **A RESOLUTION**

12 **REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF SANTA FE’S COMMITMENT TO BEING A**  
13 **WELCOMING COMMUNITY; RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO SUPPORT**  
14 **COMMUNITY EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF AFGHAN IMMIGRANTS IN NEED OF**  
15 **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE ARRIVING IN NEW MEXICO; AND ASKING**  
16 **NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES TO ALSO SUPPORT THE INTEGRATION OF THE**  
17 **REFUGEES ARRIVING IN SANTA FE.**

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the Preamble of the City of Santa Fe (“City”) Charter declares: “We, the  
20 people of Santa Fe, a capital city for four centuries, a community with rich and lasting multi-cultural  
21 traditions and a history of tolerance toward all peoples, cultures, traditions, and lifestyles, recognize  
22 our right to define our way of life and our form of government;” and

23 **WHEREAS**, the voters of the City, as a means to maximize their self-determination and  
24 self-governance, adopted a home-rule charter on December 9, 1997 and subsequent charter  
25 amendments in 2008, 2014, and 2018; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the City has a long adopted policies that welcome, integrate, and embrace  
2 migrants, immigrants, refugees and their families into the local community irrespective of  
3 citizenship status; and

4           **WHEREAS**, City Resolution No. 1985-129 declared the City a city of refuge for refugees  
5 from El Salvador and Guatemala and resolved that the City, its agents, agencies, officers, and  
6 employees in performance of official duties, would not, to the extent legally possible, assist or  
7 voluntarily cooperate with Immigration and Naturalization Service Investigations or arrest  
8 procedures relating to alleged violations of immigration law by Salvadorans and Guatemalan  
9 nationals; and

10           **WHEREAS**, City Resolution No. 1999-6 declared a policy of non-discrimination on the  
11 basis of a person’s national origin and that the City would be a community where all persons would  
12 be treated equally with respect and dignity regardless of their immigration status; and

13           **WHEREAS**, City Resolution No. 2017-19 reaffirmed the City’s stated position in  
14 Resolutions 1985-129 and 1999-6 and its commitment to human and civil rights as a welcoming  
15 community for immigrants and refugees; and

16           **WHEREAS**, because of its longstanding policies of being welcome to all people of all  
17 nationalities and backgrounds, the City supports its neighboring communities that seek to do the  
18 same; and

19           **WHEREAS**, Afghan refugees are fleeing war, armed conflict, violence, religious  
20 persecution, and human rights abuses from the Taliban organization; and

21           **WHEREAS**, Afghan refugees are persecuted by Taliban forces for aiding the United States  
22 military, its allies, and other organizations during the war effort in key roles such as acting as  
23 interpreters and assisting with and intelligence collection, among other duties; and

24           **WHEREAS**, refugees that need to be resettled include men, women, and children – all of  
25 whom cannot return home due to their extreme vulnerability and their country’s political turmoil;

1 and

2           **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body supports the welcoming of refugees, in keeping with  
3 our national values and respect for human rights; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body is committed to combating xenophobia, racism, and  
5 discrimination against Afghan refugees; and

6           **WHEREAS**, many Americans are Americans because their parents, grandparents, or great  
7 grandparents were refugees who sought to escape poverty and violence elsewhere and saw the open  
8 arms with which the United States reached out to them, assuring a safe place to resettle and begin  
9 a new life; and

10           **WHEREAS**, it is as important as ever to recognize the contributions immigrants have  
11 historically provided the United States and to welcome immigrants to the community as new  
12 members who will contribute to the intricate social fabric; and

13           **WHEREAS**, the health and welfare of the City’s neighboring communities affects the  
14 City’s health and welfare; and

15           **WHEREAS**, the most effective way for the City to assist Afghan immigrants arriving in  
16 our community at this point is to support its residents’ efforts.

17           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**  
18 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the City reaffirms and continues to abide by its non-discrimination  
19 policies set forth in Resolutions 1985-129; 1999-6; and 2017-19, including its commitment to  
20 human and civil rights and its status as a welcoming community for immigrants and refugees.

21           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body welcomes newcomers and  
22 actively fosters an inclusive environment for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, place of origin,  
23 or religion.

24           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body rejects rhetoric based on fear  
25 and hate against Afghan refugees, particularly Islamophobia that inflames hate and violence at

1 home and abroad.

2 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body reaffirms that the nation's  
3 founding principles, including freedom of religion, are as important today as they have ever been.


4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body affirms its support for the  
5 resettlement of Afghan refugees and pledges to continue to work with leaders across all sectors to  
6 identify ways to support the integration of these newcomers to the United States and that the  
7 Governing Body calls upon other communities to join the City in supporting a stronger national  
8 effort to resettle the most vulnerable Afghan refugees.

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Manager assign coordination of the City's  
10 efforts to the appropriate City personnel, including but not limited to personnel such as the Health  
11 and Community Safety Department Director.

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this  
13 Resolution to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, the Office of the Governor, the Speaker  
14 of the New Mexico House, the New Mexico Senate Majority Leader, the Santa Fe Board of County  
15 Commissioners, and the Santa Fe County Manager requesting support for the successful integration  
16 of the refugees arriving in Santa Fe.

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Manager shall provide an update to the  
18 Governing Body six months from adoption to review the fiscal impact of the resolution.

19 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 29th day of September, 2021.

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23 ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR  
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1 ATTEST:

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4 KRISTINE MIHELICIC, CITY CLERK

5 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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8 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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*Legislation/2021/Resolutions/2021-52 Afghan Immigration Support*