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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-__

INTRODUCED BY:

Mayor Alan Webber

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the City has a long adopted policies that welcome, integrate, and embrace

1 migrants, immigrants, refugees and their families into the local community irrespective of
2 citizenship status; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:



ERIN K. MCSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

Legislation/2020/Resolutions/Afghan Immigration Support