



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 20, 2024 AS WORLD REFUGEE DAY

- WHEREAS*, World Refugee Day is an international day designated on June 20 by the United Nations to honor refugees—including asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, stateless persons, and returnees—by celebrating the strength of people who have been forced to flee their homes to escape conflict or persecution; *and*
- WHEREAS*, World Refugee Day was held globally for the first time on June 20, 2001, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and is observed to shine a light on the rights, needs, and dreams of refugees and to mobilize resources for refugees to not only survive but thrive; *and*
- WHEREAS*, According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, more than 114 million people were forcibly displaced globally by the end of 2023; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Solidarity with people forced to flee also means finding solutions to their plight—ending conflicts so they can return home in safety, ensuring opportunities to thrive in the communities that have welcomed them, and providing local communities with the resources they need to include and support refugees; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The United States refugee resettlement program, which involves thorough vetting by government agencies, can be better strengthened with expanded pathways to permanent protections and increased investments to sustain the capacity to welcome refugees so they can integrate and thrive in our communities; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Over the decades, and most recently, Boston and Massachusetts have welcomed refugees, migrants, asylees, and persons displaced from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Congo, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Iraq, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Rwanda, El Salvador, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam, and many other places of origin; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and community organizations have long committed to providing direct services to help refugees transition to stability through the provision of English classes, citizenship classes, job training, legal services, and more; *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT*
- RESOLVED*: That the Boston City Council recognizes June 20, 2024, as World Refugee Day in the City of Boston and encourages all government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to take measures to welcome, support, and affirm the rights of refugees in our City, our Commonwealth, and our country.

Filed on: June 10, 2024