

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

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Cloud is a designated federal refugee relocation city by a VOLAG (Volunteer Agency) engaged in overseas relief in the State of Minnesota; 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)(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. 1522(2)(C)(ii) 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 Refugee Resettlement Supervisor for St. Cloud stated in an August 2017<sup>th</sup> email the local primary refugee resettlement capacity remained at 225 refugees; and

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

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of St. Cloud recommends a moratorium on the placement of additional refugees through primary resettlement until Lutheran Social Services, the VOLAG, demonstrates the following: (1) they are in full compliance with the aforementioned federal statutes; (2) an objective independent economic impact study detailing all costs to taxpayers for refugees has been completed and reviewed by the City Council; and (3) the City of St. Cloud is informed how the annual capacity number of 225 primary resettlement refugees was determined and what matrix is being used to determine future annual resettlement allocations.

Offered by Jeff Johnson, St. Cloud City Council Member (Ward 4) on October 16, 2017