

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM ON REFUGEE
RESETTLEMENT UNDER THE REFUGEE ACT OF 1980 (8 U.S.C. 1522)
WITHIN THE COUNTY OF EAU CLAIRE

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)(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) 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, an email dated March 23, 2023, stated by Amosheh Hamzehee (Associate Analyst from the City of Eau Claire Manager's office) in part, "We have 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

WHEREAS, there has been no disclosure of any data produced by Amosheh Hamzehee to this date, and

WHEREAS, the overall quality of life for Eau Claire County 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 County of Eau Claire recommends a moratorium on the placement of refugees through primary resettlement until World Relief 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 County Board; and (3) the County of Eau Claire is informed how the capacity number of 75 primary resettlement refugees was determined

and what matrix is being used to determine future annual resettlement allocations. This moratorium allows time for the next budget considerations for 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Administrator provide copies of this resolution to World Relief, Eau Claire City Administrator, all federal, state, and locally elected representatives representing citizens in Eau Claire County.

Offered by Allen Myren, Eau Claire County District 9 Supervisor on December 5, 2023

Fact Sheet:

It came to the attention of October 2023 through media of the resettlement of 75 immigrants "probably from Somalia." The lack of transparency from appointed City of Eau Claire employees is concerning and does not follow federal law stated in the resolution, which states that they "shall consult regularly (not less than quarterly) with state and local governments and private nonprofit voluntary agencies."

As early as February 2023, Eau Claire City Manager and her office solicited World Relief to bring in 75 refugees. As an elected official for Eau Claire County, I was not informed of this decision, and no one in the Eau Claire County government could answer if World Relief were consulting with Eau Claire County Officials, specifically Eau Claire County Human Services. It is expected a lot of the refugees will need public assistance. This is concerning because of the fiscal impact it will have on Eau Claire County taxpayers since the budget was already passed for 2023.

Discrepancies:

A letter dated May 15, 2023, written by Eau Claire City Manager Stephanie Hirsch, reads in part, "City staff started collaborating with World Relief of Appleton in March. This collaboration has involved discussions with all stakeholders in the city, including community members, local businesses, the Health Department, the Police Chief, the Department of Human Services, and other government officials. These discussions highlighted the benefits of opening a resettlement agency in Eau Claire, and all stakeholders announced their support for the initiative."

From the World Relief Wisconsin website, under a brochure dated October 23, 2023, "Frequently Asked Questions: Refugee Resettlement in the Chippewa Valley," stated under What was the process for opening a new World Relief Office in the Chippewa Valley? In part, it said:

"The City of Eau Claire contacted World Relief in March 2023 about the prospect of opening a resettlement office in the city. World Relief then conducted a series of consultations with local stakeholders over several months, including the Eau Claire Police Department, Eau Claire School District, Eau Claire County Health Department, Eau Claire Department of Human Services, as well as multiple employers, housing providers, churches and a community volunteer group.

World Relief also conducted a thorough review of the area's employment prospects, cost of living, housing availability, school, English language education programs, and other stability factors necessary for newcomer integration, finding that Eau Claire would be well suited to resettle a small number of refugees in the coming year."

Again, there is no transparency in reporting to elected officials of the City and County of Eau Claire that approve budgets.

Safety Concerns:

World Relief's Frequently Asked Questions and the past president of World Relief (Leader-Telegram Commentary of November 24, 2023) both state, "That vetting process has also proven remarkably effective: since the Refugee Act of 1980 established the current process for refugee resettlement, not a

single American life has been lost in an Islamist terrorist attack perpetrated by someone who entered the United States as a refugee,"

This is false, and one news report, an excerpt from W.N.D. reported by Leo Hohmann, published October 24, 2017

"Of all the refugee communities brought to the United States since 1980, the Somalis have, as a community, been among the least interested in assimilating. Dozens have been arrested, tried, and convicted of providing material support to overseas terrorists. At the same time, at least 40 have been confirmed by the F.B.I. to have left the country since 2007 to fight for groups like al-Shabab, ISIS, and al-Qaida. After six more Somali youths were caught trying to leave the state to join ISIS, Minnesota's Obama-appointed U.S. Attorney Andrew Luger admitted at a press conference on April 20, 2015, that "We have a terror recruiting problem in Minnesota."

"Then, just over a year later, the terrorism came home to St. Cloud itself, when 21-year-old Nadir Adan, a Somali refugee, carried out a knife attack at Crossroads Center mall, injuring ten people, two critically, after asking many of his victims if they were Muslims. Those who said no got stabbed."

Luckily, the terrorist was shot and killed by an off-duty Police Officer.

Economic Impact of Refugee Resettlement:

World Relief reports that "Most refugees are able to become economically self-sufficient relatively quickly and ultimately become net fiscal contributors: a study by economists at the University of Notre Dame finds that, by twenty years after arrival, the average refugee adult has contributed approximately \$21,000 more in taxes at all levels than the combined cost of governmental expenditures on their behalf, including the cost of initial resettlement"

However, a paper Prepared by John W. Palmer, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus St. Cloud State University
Titled
"Employment and Economic Status of Minnesota Resettled Refugees. January 2018"
Wrote on Page 10 the poverty level of Minnesotans:

All Minnesotans considered in the poverty level,
16-64 years age 11%
White 8%
Black 35%
Mexican 26%
Hmong 27%
Somali 57%