

**Resolution
By Ellison**

Recognizing Immigrant Heritage Month and World Refugee Day

- Whereas: The month of June is Immigrant Heritage Month, and Sunday, June 20 is World Refugee Day; and
- Whereas: An immigrant is a person who is living in a country other than their country of birth, and immigrants in the United States may be here pursuant to different types of immigration status, including US citizenship through naturalization; and
- Whereas: A refugee is a someone who has experienced or fears persecution, by their government or a force that their government cannot or will not control, because of that person’s race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group; and
- Whereas: Over 63,000 people who live in Minneapolis were born outside of the United States, including an estimated 20,000 refugee residents, and come from countries around the world, including but not limited to Somalia, Mexico, Ethiopia, Ecuador, India, China, Laos, Kenya, Thailand, Korea, El Salvador, Vietnam, Canada, Germany, and Guatemala; and
- Whereas: We find that our immigrant and refugee populations are often treated as outsiders, experiencing both historic and present-day exclusion and disparities in access to health care, education and benefits, including federal recovery benefits; and
- Whereas: Members of our immigrant and refugee community around the country and in Minnesota have experienced acts of violence and hatred, including those perpetrated against our Asian American and Pacific Islander and Muslim communities; and
- Whereas: Over the course of 2020 and 2021, immigrants and refugees worked in essential industries, putting their own lives at risk to support themselves and their families, and in so doing, enabled residents of Minneapolis to continue to obtain essential items and services; and
- Whereas: Immigrants and refugees experienced significant destabilization as industries that employ many immigrants and refugees, including the hospitality and restaurant industries, were shuttered, some permanently; and
- Whereas: Our last Presidential Administration enacted an estimated 1,000 immigration focused policies, including a now suspended expansion to the “public charge rule,” many of which deterred immigrants and refugees from seeking health care and additional benefits during a pandemic, attempted to restrict undocumented immigrants from being counted in the 2020 Census, and negatively impacted their ability to obtain secure or more secure immigration status; and
- Whereas: Continued immigration detention and deportation during the pandemic increased fear of COVID-19 transmission among and within our detained immigrant and refugee

community, as reported by the Advocates for Human Rights, Binger Center for New Americans, and Minnesota Immigrant Health Alliance; and

Whereas: We recognize that while our immigrant and refugee residents have an incredible strength and resiliency, the many hardships these residents have endured over the last four years, as exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, illuminate that sustained supports, including mental health supports, are critically needed at this time; and

Whereas: Residents of the City of Minneapolis who were born outside the United States have made and continue to make sacrifices and contributions to our society, raising families and dedicating personal and financial resources to our community, our economy, our political discourse, the arts, our military, our faith-based institutions and many other aspects of society; and

Whereas: We recognize that institutional racism creates tension between and amongst communities, including between different communities of color; and

Whereas: We acknowledge that a commitment to fundamental institutional change for racial equity, peace and justice involves conversations and actions that are uncomfortable and painful, but that these are necessary to establish more meaningful and honest relationships between our different Black, Indigenous, Asian-Pacific Islander, Latinx, and people of color communities and the City; and

Whereas: Immigrant Heritage Month offers opportunities to recognize the accomplishments and contributions that immigrants and their families have made in shaping our nation's history, enriching this country's culture, and contributing to the economy and success of the United States; and

Whereas: World Refugee Day, celebrated since June 20, 2001, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, is an opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the strength and resilience of refugees who have fled conflict and persecution in their home countries in hopes of reaching sanctuary and a better life in the United States;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:

By the Minneapolis City Council that we commit to sustained advocacy and coordination to ensure that our immigrant and refugee residents are protected against harmful governmental policies.

We commit to support and develop immigrant and refugee inclusion initiatives that increase equity in access to services, essential not only for the health and safety of immigrant and refugee communities, but for all residents.

We reaffirm that the City of Minneapolis stands for inclusiveness, equity, peace and justice, that the City of Minneapolis is a welcoming city, and we will work in collaboration with community for the changes that we want to and must see in our society.