

Introduced by: Councilmember Seamens

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2017-27

ENCOURAGING TAKOMA PARK LANDLORDS TO HOUSE REFUGEES AND ASYLEES

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park has a long history of welcoming immigrants and building a caring, inclusive and strong community which celebrates its diversity; and

WHEREAS, our neighbors include individuals from all parts of the world who speak many different languages and represent many cultures, making Takoma Park truly a city of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, over 60 million people around the world have been forced out of their home because of war or civil unrest, among them 20 million refugees; and

WHEREAS, opening our doors to those who are fleeing violence does not endanger our safety; but rather shows our compassion and hope; and

WHEREAS, access to safe, quality, and stable housing is one way that the community can work together to provide support to refugee families relocating to Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, roughly half of the housing stock in the community is provided on a rental basis by both nonprofit and for profit property owners; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, reaffirming the City of Takoma Park's commitment to remain a place of sanctuary and a safe haven for refugees and asylees from around the world, has identified as a priority goal for 2017, the continuation of work to "be a welcoming and inclusive community for all residents."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Takoma Park, Maryland hereby encourages Takoma Park landlords to open their doors and provide housing to refugees, and those who have been granted or are seeking asylum, regardless of their national origin, as we work together to create a livable community for all.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs the City Manager to explore options for providing financial assistance from the City's Affordable Housing Reserve Fund to refugees or asylees living in Takoma Park or to Takoma Park landlords who agree to house refugees and asylees.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park this 12th day of April, 2017.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk