



Montgomery  
County Council

**Committee:** Directly to Council  
**Committee Review:** N/A  
**Staff:** Ken Silverman, Chief of Staff, Councilmember Riemer  
**Purpose:** Final action – vote expected  
**Keywords:** refugee resettlement

AGENDA ITEM #2F  
November 19, 2019  
**Action**

## SUBJECT

Resolution Supporting Refugee Resettlement in Montgomery County (Note: amendment added after introduction.)

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Action on resolution as amended. Amendment includes individuals with disabilities and the elderly in background clause 2 as refugees that cannot return home or stay in their host country due to their extreme vulnerability. Resolution was introduced at the November 12, 2019 session.

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that 1.4 million refugees are in need of immediate resettlement but there are less than 200,000 resettlement places available worldwide. It is important that jurisdictions state their support for the resettlement of refugees.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Council has previously stated its support and welcome for immigrants. Resolution 17-108 states in its background, "Montgomery County has long been home to immigrants from around the world who come here seeking peace, stability, and a better life for their families."
- This resolution states the Council's support for resettlement of refugees in Montgomery County no matter their religion, race, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or country of origin.

### **This report contains:**

Resolution with notations for amendments  
to the resolution as introduced

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Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: November 12, 2019  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Hans Riemer  
Cosponsors: Councilmembers Navarro, Hucker, Albornoz, Glass, Jawando, Friedson, Katz, and Rice

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**SUBJECT:** Supporting Refugee Resettlement In Montgomery County

**Background**

1. The United Nations [UN] High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has determined that 1.4 million refugees are in need of immediate resettlement, but less than 200,000 resettlement places are available worldwide.
2. Refugees who need to be resettled include torture survivors, people with severe medical conditions, LGBTQIA individuals, children alone, [and] women and children at risk, individuals with disabilities and the elderly, and any others who cannot return home or stay in their host country due to their extreme vulnerability.
3. The County Council is proud to embrace the historic tradition of the United States in welcoming refugees, in keeping with our social values and respect for human rights, and believe the County has a moral obligation to welcome refugees.
4. In 2011, the County Council passed Resolution 17-108 to promote public trust in government and law enforcement to ensure that the federal Secure Communities initiative was implemented consistent with its stated purpose.
5. In November 2016, the County Council approved Resolution 18-673 reaffirming community safety and trust and denouncing anti-immigrant activity, racial bias, and discrimination.

**Action**

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Council declares its support for the resettlement of refugees in Montgomery County, no matter their religion, race, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or country of origin.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

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Mary Ann Paradise  
Acting Clerk of the Council