

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A LETTER TO UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE, THE HONORABLE MICHAEL POMPEO, CONVEYING THE CITY OF OLYMPIA'S CONSENT TO WELCOMING AND RESETTLING REFUGEES THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S RECEPTION AND PLACEMENT PROGRAM AND AS OTHERWISE PERMITTED BY FEDERAL LAW.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Olympia is a welcoming city that serves and protects its residents regardless of their immigration status; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Olympia is a city of peace where those who are politically persecuted can find safe haven and sanctuary, with a history of supporting immigrant and refugee rights; and

**WHEREAS**, in the City of Olympia, all people, including immigrants and refugees, are respected and valued and are vital to our shared prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, immigration and supporting refugees has been a cornerstone of our city, state and nation's development throughout our shared history; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Washington is the nation's eighth largest refugee-receiving state in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 5, 2019, Governor Jay Inslee on behalf of the State of Washington wrote to Secretary of State Michael Pompeo to affirm the State of Washington's consent to welcoming and resettling refugees into our State's communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Inslee recognized that refugees have sacrificed everything to seek refuge in America from violence, starvation, and other horrors most Americans have not experienced, and that refugees and their children bring with them their unique perspectives on tragedy, perseverance, and triumph, which experiences have made Washington State and our communities richer because of their important contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 26, 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 13888 which provided that the federal government should resettle refugees only in those jurisdictions in which both the State and local governments have consented to receive refugees under the Department of State's Reception and Placement Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the President's Executive Order 13888 provided a time period within which the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Health and Human Services implement a process by which a State's and local governments' consent to the resettlement of refugees under the Department of State's Reception and Placement Program is to be taken into account to the maximum extent consistent with law, and that if a State or local government has not provided consent to receive refugees under the Reception and Placement Program, then refugees should not be resettled within that State or locality unless the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of

Homeland Security, determines that failing to resettle refugees within that State or locality would be inconsistent with the policies and strategies established under federal law in Title 8 U.S.C. 1522(a)(2)(B) and (C) or other applicable law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE** that Mayor Cheryl Selby is authorized to sign and transmit the attached letter on behalf of the City of Olympia, Washington, affirming the City of Olympia's consent to welcome and resettle refugees in our city pursuant to President Trump's Executive Order 13888, and reserving the right to challenge the validity of Executive Order 13888's requirements in the future.

**PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY ATTORNEY



December 17, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington DC, 20230

Re: Consent for refugee resettlement pursuant to Executive Order 13888

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

This letter is in reference to Executive Order 13888, *"On Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement."*

As Mayor of the City of Olympia, capitol of the State of Washington, I consent to initial refugee resettlement in Olympia, Washington, as per the terms of the Executive Order.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Selby  
Mayor

cc: Carol T. O'Connell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

Governor Jay Inslee, State of Washington

Sarah Peterson, Chief of Department of Social and Health Services  
Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance