

1 **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-96**

2 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF**  
3 **AFGHAN REFUGEES AND THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN**

4  
5 **WHEREAS**, in February 2020, the Afghan Taliban signed an agreement with the United  
6 States (“US”) ahead of a proposed withdrawal of US troops, and in April 2021, President Biden  
7 announced that US military forces would leave Afghanistan by September 11, 2021 after a 20-  
8 year conflict; and

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, the Taliban ramped up attacks on Afghan National Defense and Security  
11 Forces bases and outposts, and on August 15, 2021, Taliban fighters entered the capital, leading  
12 Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to flee the country and the Afghan government to collapse;  
13 and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, the ongoing uncertainty and violence in Afghanistan and the takeover of  
16 the Afghan government by the Taliban has created a humanitarian crisis, with rapidly  
17 deteriorating human rights and reductions in safety particularly for vulnerable individuals,  
18 including, but not limited to: women and girls, members of the LGBTQ+ community, those  
19 who have direct ties to the U.S. government and military, members of ethnic minority  
20 communities, those who are Shi'a Muslim, adherents of non-Muslim faiths, including those of  
21 Sikh and Hindu faiths, and individuals who work for or have ties to aid organizations; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, many Afghan citizens, government employees, interpreters, translators,  
24 and Afghan National Defense and Security Forces personnel who supported our service  
25 members while they were serving in Afghanistan now find their lives and their family’s lives  
26 in jeopardy under Taliban rule; and

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1           **WHEREAS**, refugees and their families face a multitude of challenges when arriving in  
2 the United States and transitioning to a new life, including but not limited to; resettlement,  
3 language barriers, financial hardship, accessing education, finding work and legal status; and  
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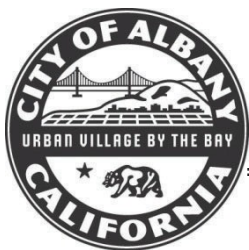
5           **WHEREAS**, federal and state leaders in California, specifically in the Bay Area, home  
6 to the largest concentration of Afghans and Afghan Americans in the United States, have the  
7 unique and moral responsibility to welcome Afghan refugees into our communities, while  
8 honoring the commitments of the United States government, assisting in the evacuation of  
9 vulnerable groups, providing support to organizations who will serve the refugee community,  
10 and showing support for the Afghan community during this difficult time.  
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12           **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Albany urges our state and  
13 federal leaders to act immediately and with determination, and rightfully bring at-risk and  
14 vulnerable Afghan peoples and their families to the United States for safety and prosperity and  
15 be afforded full benefits to transition into American life; specifically, the City of Albany  
16 encourages California to accept more, and house more, Afghan refugees than any other U.S.  
17 State; and  
18

19           **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Albany supports and welcomes  
20 refugees from Afghanistan into our community and calls upon our residents, community  
21 leaders, businesses, faith-based organizations, and community-based organizations to  
22 welcome and support these Afghan families to achieve their inherent right to life, liberty, and  
23 the pursuit of happiness.  
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26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 GE'NELL GARY, MBA - MAYOR  
28  
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# *City of Albany*

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## **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-96**

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY,

The 4th day of October, 2021, by the following votes:

AYES: Council Members Jordan, McQuaid, Nason, Tiedemann and Mayor Gary

NOES: none

ABSENT: none

ABSTAINED: none

RECUSED: none

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, this 5th  
day of October, 2021.

Anne Hsu  
CITY CLERK