

**Resolution expressing support for the people of Afghanistan and the possible resettlement of Afghan refugees in Central Ohio.
(COMMISSIONERS)**

WHEREAS, Franklin County has always been an open and welcoming community, benefits daily from a large and active immigrant and refugee community, and derives much of its strength and identity from the diverse nature of its residents; and,

WHEREAS, the nearly 200,000 immigrants in Central Ohio contribute more than \$2.1 billion in tax revenue each year and more than \$15 billion to our region's gross domestic product, and make up less than nine percent of our population but almost 11% of our workforce and nearly 12% of all business owners generating almost \$300 million in annual income; and,

WHEREAS, the residents of Franklin County greatly value our religious and other personal freedoms, gender equality and the rights of women and girls, and want everyone everywhere to be able to exercise those same rights and freedoms; and,

WHEREAS, many Afghans supported America's efforts in the ongoing Global War Against Terrorism, risking their lives and livelihoods to help NATO forces in their efforts to capture or kill the perpetrators of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and in their struggle against extremists; and,

WHEREAS, Afghanistan is now under the control of a brutal and repressive regime that has a record of harboring terrorists and not respecting human rights, the rights of women, girls, or the LGBTQ community, the rights of ethnic or religious minorities, public education or freedom of the press, cultural history or elements of modern culture such as music and other forms of self-expression; and,

WHEREAS, the residents and leadership of Franklin County are firmly committed to welcoming New American residents to our community, to supporting our Afghan allies, and to helping those who are fleeing oppression; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

Resolution No. 0678-21

August 31, 2021

**Resolution expressing support for the people of Afghanistan and the possible resettlement of Afghan refugees in Central Ohio.
(COMMISSIONERS)**

That Franklin County supports the people of Afghanistan, the immigrant and refugee community in Central Ohio, and the possible resettlement of Afghan refugees in our community.

SIGNATURE SHEET FOLLOWS