

**JOINT CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION CELEBRATING JUNE 20, 2024, AS
WORLD REFUGEE DAY IN SALT LAKE CITY**

WHEREAS, *the United Nations General Assembly, in its Resolution 55/76, designated June 20 as World Refugee Day to honor the courage, resilience, and determination of millions of refugees worldwide who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or natural disasters; and*

WHEREAS, *the global refugee crisis remains one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our time, with millions of people being uprooted from their communities, leaving behind everything they know and love, and seeking safety and a better future for themselves and their families; and*

WHEREAS, *World Refugee Day provides an opportunity for us to raise awareness about the plight of refugees and to express solidarity with them, recognizing their contributions to our societies and reaffirming our commitment to protecting their rights and ensuring their well-being; and*

WHEREAS, *Salt Lake City is a welcoming city to all refugees and supports integration efforts through the Know Your Neighbor Program, a partnership between the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office and the Utah Department of Workforce Services Refugee Services Office, connecting local volunteers with refugees in Utah to assist with a variety of needs and create a welcoming and inclusive environment; and*

WHEREAS, *the Know Your Neighbor volunteer program has matched 607 Volunteers for over 19,000 volunteer hours. Almost 800 refugees received support from the program in the past year; and*

WHEREAS, *there are over 65,000 refugees in Utah, almost all of whom reside in the Salt Lake Valley. Last year, we welcomed an additional 1,575 refugees and are expecting to match that number again this year; and*

WHEREAS, *there are over 80 refugee community groups working to better the lives of refugees and all in our community; and*

WHEREAS, *we also recognize the remarkable efforts of humanitarian organizations, non-governmental organizations, and individuals who provide life-saving assistance, protection, and support to refugees, often at great personal sacrifice; and*

WHEREAS, *the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office has over 68 partners actively working to support and improve the lives of refugees who live here; and*

WHEREAS, *Salt Lake City acknowledges every refugee has a unique story and that their experiences, skills, and perspectives enrich our diverse society and contribute to our collective progress; and*

WHEREAS, *it is crucial to address the root causes of forced displacement, promote peace, stability, and respect for human rights, and work towards durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement, in collaboration with governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector.*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that the Salt Lake City Council and Mayor of Salt Lake City recognize June 20, 2024, as World Refugee Day in Salt Lake City.

Adopted this 11th day of June 2024

*Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City Mayor*

*Victoria Petro, Chair
Salt Lake City Council Member, District One*

*Chris Wharton, Vice Chair
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Three*

*Alejandro Puy
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Two*

*Eva Lopez Chavez
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Four*

*Darin Mano
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Five*

*Dan Dugan
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Six*

*Sarah Young
Salt Lake City Council Member, District Seven*