

A RESOLUTION BY DETROIT CITY COUNCIL MEMBER CASTAÑEDA-LÓPEZ IN SUPPORT OF THE RECOGNITION OF JUNE 20, 2019 AS *WORLD REFUGEE DAY*

WHEREAS According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency, the most recent data indicates there are 68.5 million people forcibly displaced worldwide, described as the worst refugee crisis in history; and

WHEREAS The United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee as “someone who fled his or her home and country owing to a well-founded fear of persecution because of his/her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion”, noting that many are in exile to escape the effects of natural or human-made disasters; and

WHEREAS By resolution dated December 4, 2000, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the fiftieth anniversary of the Office of the UNHCR and declared its intent to celebrate June 20th as *World Refugee Day*, beginning on June 20, 2001; and

WHEREAS Michigan’s Governor Gretchen Whitmer has proclaimed June 20, 2019, as World Refugee Day in Michigan, noting that Michigan is a “welcoming state and has offered hope and safety to tens of thousands of refugees since World War II”; and

WHEREAS Detroit, as the state’s largest and most prominent city, has long been home to a large migrant community, as well as resettlement agencies, businesses, educational institutions, and faith communities supporting refugees; and

WHEREAS Detroit, Michigan is a Welcoming City, that values its vast multicultural population, which includes a substantial Latino/Hispanic community, a portion of the largest population of citizens of Arab descent outside of the Middle East, as well as migrant communities from around the globe; and

WHEREAS As stated in the Detroit City Council’s resolution affirming our *Welcoming City* status, “the City of Detroit believes in the innate dignity of all its residents and recognizes the importance of their valuable contributions to the social, religious, cultural, and economic life within the city. The City of Detroit acknowledges, honors, and values our immigrant and migrant roots, and embraces the values of family, faith, and hard work”; and

WHEREAS The Detroit City Council acknowledges the plight of refugees around the world and encourages the citizens of Detroit to appreciate the strength, perseverance, and accomplishments of their new neighbors from beyond our borders. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council recognizes June 20, 2019 as *WORLD REFUGEE DAY* in Detroit.