

Proclamation

Issued By The Mayor

Issued in Support of Afghan Refugees and People of Afghanistan

WHEREAS, in February 2020, the Afghan Taliban signed a peace agreement with the United States ahead of a proposed withdrawal of US troops, and in April 2021, President Biden announced that US military forces would leave Afghanistan by September 11, 2021 after a 20-year conflict; and

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

WHEREAS, the ongoing uncertainty and violence in Afghanistan and the takeover of the Afghan government by the Taliban has created a humanitarian crisis, with rapidly deteriorating human rights and reductions in safety particularly for vulnerable individuals; and

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

WHEREAS, refugees and their families face a multitude of challenges when arriving in the United States and transitioning to a new life, including but not limited to: resettlement, language barriers, financial hardship, accessing education, finding work and legal status; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area is home to one of the largest concentrations of Afghans and Afghan Americans in the United States. The City of San Leandro urges our state and federal leaders to bring at-risk and vulnerable Afghan peoples and their families to the United States for safety and prosperity and be afforded full benefits to transition into American life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Pauline Russo Cutter, Mayor of San Leandro do hereby convey that the San Leandro community is a welcoming place for refugees from Afghanistan, and I call upon our residents, community leaders, businesses, faith-based & community organizations to join me in welcoming and supporting Afghan families in their efforts to achieve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of San Leandro to be affixed this fourth day of October 2021.
