



## RESOLUTION NO. 40847

1 BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBER HINES, McCARTHY, AND THOMS

2 A RESOLUTION authorizing the one-time use of funds in the amount of \$25,000,  
3 budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund, for the purpose of assisting  
4 Lutheran Community Services Northwest in building program capacity to  
5 resettle Afghan immigrants and refugees to Tacoma and Pierce County.

6 WHEREAS, with U.S. forces pulling out of Afghanistan, over 100,000 people  
7 evacuated the country for their own safety, and these individuals now need to  
8 immigrate to other countries as immigrants and refugees, and

9 WHEREAS in 2015, with the adoption of Resolution No. 39116, the City  
10 dedicated itself to being a Welcoming City, stating that it would create a more  
11 welcoming, immigrant-friendly community to maximize opportunities for economic  
12 growth and cultural vitality, and Tacoma is poised to welcome Afghans to our  
13 community, and

14 WHEREAS the Washington State Department of Social and Health  
15 Services ("DSHS") reported that 293 Afghans arrived in Washington State in  
16 August 2021, and

17 WHEREAS, while it is unknown how many total Afghan immigrants and  
18 refugees will relocate to Washington, DSHS anticipates that the U.S. will need to  
19 resettle nearly 60,000 individuals, and

20 WHEREAS, based on the capacity of resettlement agencies in the Puget  
21 Sound region to provide services and historic programming, the City anticipates that  
22 a significant number of Afghan immigrants and refugees will be relocated in this  
23 area, and  
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WHEREAS Joint Base Lewis-McChord (“JBLM”) is a premiere military installation in our community and a critical projection platform serving the Operation Enduring Freedom (“OEF”) mission since its inception, and

WHEREAS few communities have deployed more service members for OEF than JBLM, and the Tacoma community supports these Afghans who ensured our family members returned safely home, and

WHEREAS some JBLM service members with connections to Afghans and their families are asking for these families to be relocated to Tacoma so that they can help support them as they settle in the U.S., and

WHEREAS Lutheran Community Services Northwest (“LCS Northwest”), a nonprofit organization, receives funding from the federal government to support refugees seeking to resettle in the U.S., and the organization is currently resettling immigrants and refugees from Afghanistan in Washington State, and

WHEREAS LCS Northwest offers housing navigation and other basic needs support to help these families and allies with urgent needs, and

WHEREAS, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, LCS Northwest lost financial resources and had to reduce staffing, which has added a barrier to its work as the organization rapidly scales up to meet the needs of and influx of Afghan immigrants and refugees, and

WHEREAS, at the September 21, 2021, Study Session, Council Member Thoms shared a Council Consideration Request to authorize the one-time use of \$25,000 from the Council Contingency Fund for the purpose of assisting



1 LCS Northwest in building program capacity to resettle Afghan immigrants and  
2 refugees to Tacoma and Pierce County, and

3 WHEREAS the proposed funding will be used to cover the cost of a  
4 part-time staff person working 20 hours per week, for six to eight months; to  
5 support the daily operations of the program, to include the following tasks:  
6 (1) assist management and staff by performing a variety of administrative and  
7 clerical support duties, such as meeting planning, preparing complex documents,  
8 composing correspondence and coordinating activities; (2) collect and compile  
9 data, prepare standard and custom reports; (3) understand policies and  
10 procedures to complete routine tasks; and (4) act as a knowledge source for  
11 clients, coworkers, and others, and

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13 WHEREAS RCW 35.34.250 and 35.34.260 authorize a withdrawal from the  
14 Council Contingency fund for any municipal expense, the necessity or extent of  
15 which could not have been foreseen or reasonably evaluated at the time of  
16 adopting the budget, and

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18 WHEREAS Ordinance No. 22569 requires an affirmative vote of not less  
19 than six members of the Council in order to withdraw moneys from this fund; Now,  
20 Therefore,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

23 That one-time funding in the amount of \$25,000, budgeted from the Council  
24 Contingency Fund, is hereby approved for the purpose of assisting Lutheran  
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1 Community Services Northwest in building program capacity to resettle Afghan  
2 immigrants and refugees to Tacoma and Pierce County.

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4 Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
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8 Mayor

9 Attest:  
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11 City Clerk

12 Approved as to form:  
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14 Deputy City Attorney

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