

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

June 12, 2018

**Refugee Awareness Month June 2018**

The United States is a land of opportunity for many people around the world. Along with an opportunity to start anew, refugees see our country as a doorway to freedom and as a sanctuary from the persecution and violence that plagues other countries.

Aside from their struggles and hardships, refugees share a common goal with other immigrants, to achieve the American dream; and through their many skills and talents, faiths and shared common values, enrich our nation both culturally and economically.

Many refugees and their families settle in Los Angeles County with the objective of starting new lives free from violence, political and religious persecution. Based on information from the California Department of Social Services, Refugee Program Bureau, 8,990 refugees arrived in Los Angeles County in the past five years. Among the many refugees that arrive in the United States, numerous experience language, educational, and cultural barriers that hinder their successful transition to life in the United States.

**MOTION**

Solis \_\_\_\_\_

Ridley-Thomas \_\_\_\_\_

Hahn \_\_\_\_\_

Barger \_\_\_\_\_

Kuehl \_\_\_\_\_

Los Angeles County's Departments of Public Health and Public Social Services, along with local refugee service agencies, play an integral part in assisting refugees and their families' transition to self-sufficiency by providing culturally and linguistically sensitive resettlement and supportive services.

Local refugee service agencies include:

- Armenian Relief Society;
- Catholic Charities of Los Angeles;
- Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles;
- Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service;
- International Institute of Los Angeles;
- International Rescue Committee;
- Jewish Family Services;
- Jobs Vision Success SoCal;
- World Relief; and
- Refugee Forum of Los Angeles.

As our nation continues to commemorate the strength, courage, and perseverance of refugees, we persist with our commitment of compassion, generosity and support for those who have been forced to flee their homelands; and just as the California Department of Social Services annually declares June as "Refugee Awareness Month" and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees annually proclaims June 20<sup>th</sup> as "World Refugee Day," the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County embraces and celebrates the contributions that refugees bring to our County.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Join with local refugee service agencies, the Departments of Public Health

and Public Social Services to proclaim June 2018 as “Refugee Awareness Month” throughout the County of Los Angeles, and

2. Commend the invaluable efforts of local refugee service agencies, and
3. Recognize the significant contributions of refugees to Los Angeles County.

S: LM/Refugee Awareness Month