

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

March 1, 2022

Condemnation of the Russian War of Aggression against the Independent Nation of Ukraine and resources to support affected Los Angeles County Residents

On February 24, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an invasion of the independent nation of Ukraine by Russian Armed Forces. The invasion followed by targeted airstrikes of military buildings in the country, as well as tanks entering via the Belarus border. Several Ukrainian cities and buildings have been occupied, including the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. At least 40 Ukrainian soldiers were reported killed in the hours after the invasion, with tens of thousands of deaths expected over the course of the conflict. Because of this blatant act of aggression, many Ukrainian Nationals have begun to flee for their lives from city centers to neighboring countries. It is essential that the United States take a leading role in welcoming Ukrainian refugees to the United States during this International Humanitarian Crisis. In addition, the United States must expand the United States Refugee Program that is already under constraints and capacity due to the 70,000 refugees from Afghanistan that arrived in the United States last year. The nine non-profit agencies tasked by the United States Department of State which were forced

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to downsize under President Donald Trump are struggling to resettle the many Afghan refugees and would be unable to handle another large volume of refugees unless more funding is identified. Los Angeles County has always been a place for immigrants and refugees of all nationalities to come for safety and to seek a better life for themselves and their families. The County stands ready to support the federal government in any resettlement effort.

Los Angeles County is home to over 26,000 individuals declaring themselves to be of partial or full Ukrainian decent. The Ukrainian Community and the many diverse communities of Los Angeles County stand unified in condemning this act of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Los Angeles County is ready to support those affected by the conflict.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors take the official position of condemning President Vladimir Putin and the Russian Federation in its war of aggression against the independent nation of Ukraine.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to send a five-signature letter to the following individuals:

1. A letter to Anatoly Antonov, Russian Ambassador to the United States relaying the County of Los Angeles's position on the Russian War of Aggression against Ukraine and urging his government to immediately commence peace talks with the Ukrainian Government to prevent any more deaths of civilians on both sides.
2. A letter to President Joe Biden, asking the President to provide Temporary Protected Status or Deferred Enforcement Departure for Ukrainian Nationals

and especially for family members of American Citizens or Permanent Residents of Ukrainian decent to allow them to relocate to the United States. In addition, asking the President to provide additional funding to the 9 non-profit groups tasked by the United States Department of State with resettling refugees in the United States. The County stands ready to work in collaboration with the federal government in any efforts in resettling Ukrainian Refugees.

3. A letter to each member of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation asking them to urge President Biden to provide Temporary Protected Status or Deferred Enforcement Departure Ukrainian Nationals and especially for family members of American Citizens or Permanent Residents of Ukrainian decent to allow them to relocate to the United States. In addition, asking Congress to provide additional funding to the 9 non-profit groups tasked by the United States Department of State with resettling refugees in the United States.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs' Office of Immigrant Affairs in collaboration with the Office of Emergency Management to work to provide information to Los Angeles County residents seeking information and assistance for friends and family members affected by the developing situation in Ukraine.

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