

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

June 4, 2014

Refugee Awareness Month

The United States is seen as a land of opportunity by many people from all over the world. Yet, for some, their arrival here is not solely an effort to pursue their dreams, but an attempt to find safe haven.

Refugees are often forced to abandon their native countries due to political, religious, or other social issues that potentially result in persecution, deprivation, violation of human rights, and even war. These individuals and families arrive in our country facing many barriers including language and limited knowledge about our court process. Many feel vulnerable as newcomers in a new land.

Refugees and their families settle in Los Angeles County with the objective of starting new lives. Los Angeles County plays an essential role in assisting refugees in this life-changing undertaking by providing culturally and linguistically sensitive resettlement assistance and employment services. Our partners in the community include:

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MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

- Catholic Charities of Los Angeles;
- Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service/Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles;
- International Institute of Los Angeles;
- International Rescue Committee;
- Jewish Family Services/Jewish Vocational Services;
- World Relief;
- Armenian Relief Society; and
- Community Enhancement Services.

For decades, refugees seeking freedom, safety and liberty, have chosen to integrate into Los Angeles County communities. Just as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has annually proclaimed June 20 as “World Refugee Day,” the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County recognizes the numerous contributions refugees have made to enhance the culture of Los Angeles County.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors proclaims June as 2014 “Refugee Awareness Month” throughout the County of Los Angeles to increase awareness of the contributions of refugees to our communities.

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