

1 **RESOLUTION NO.**

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3 **WHEREAS**, after the collapse of the Afghanistan government and the Taliban
4 takeover of Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city, many Afghan citizens are leaving the
5 country and seeking asylum; and

6 **WHEREAS**, thousands of Afghan citizens supported American and allied
7 forces, standing side-by-side with our service members, diplomats, and aid workers
8 while serving as interpreters, engineers, logistical service providers, and more; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the city of Austin has historically been a haven for refugees
10 escaping war and political violence; and

11 **WHEREAS**, since 2010, Refugee Services of Texas has welcomed more than
12 2,400 special immigrant visa holders from Afghanistan and Iraq into the Austin
13 community and into our public schools, without controversy; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Afghan refugees are currently arriving in Texas cities, including
15 in Austin, for resettlement; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

16 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

17 The City Council wishes to offer a home in Austin for the refugees of the war in
18 Afghanistan and hereby notifies the United States federal government that the City of
19 Austin stands ready to welcome Afghan refugees and;

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

21 The City Council directs the City Manager to coordinate any necessary
22 response with county, state, and federal government departments and agencies in
23 accordance with previously established and proven best practices for emergency
24 resettlement.

25 **ADOPTED:** _____ 2021 **ATTEST:** _____

26 Jannette S. Goodall
27 City Clerk