

UNION COUNTY

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT RESOLUTION

Currently, in Union County, TN we have 3,630 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") recipients. We believe these families are in many cases suffering from under-employment and/or low wage jobs. We want them to gain better employment that will allow them to feed their families without governmental assistance. Union County does not want to be forced into resettling additional poor and under-educated persons who lack job skills and do not speak our language. These refugees will stay on unemployment for several years after their arrival and compete for the same jobs as our already large number of SNAP recipients. Our schools and in many cases our jails will need additional resources. English and second language teachers are very expensive and will have to be added to our schools to accommodate Spanish or other language speakers. We do not want to be forced to add more teachers speaking perhaps much rarer languages.

Look at Germany's problems.

Bringing most of these current asylum seekers into gainful employment is a herculean task, given the lack of German language abilities, occupational experience, and skills among many refugees. While between 8,500 and 10,000 refugees entered the German labor force each month in 2018, researchers project that some 50 percent of the recent refugees will still be unemployed five years after their arrival. That percentage is estimated to drop to 25 percent only after 14 years. In addition, about one-third of employed refugees are temporary workers without long-term contracts, and the majority of them are working in low-skilled, low-paying occupations. A wave of violence overnight in a German city on New Year's Eve December 30, 2015 resulted in dozens of reports of sexual assault and robberies around the city's main train station, where a crowd of about 1,000 men had congregated, police said, according to Spiegel online. "We will not tolerate such cowardly and abhorrent attacks" German Justice Minister Heiko Maas said. "This is apparently an entirely new dimension of organized crime". more than 90 criminal complaints were filed. About a quarter of them cited sexual harassment or groping, including at least one rape, according to the BBC.

Middle Eastern Refugees in the US.

In the U.S., according to the Center for Immigration Studies, the best estimate is that in their first five years in the United States each refugee from the Middle East cost taxpayers \$64,370.00 - 12 times what the UN estimates it costs to care for one refugee in neighboring Middle Eastern countries. The cost of resettlement includes heavy welfare use by Middle Eastern refugees: 91 percent receive food stamps and 68 percent receive cash assistance. Costs also include processing refugees, assistance given to new refugees and aid to refugee-receiving communities. Given the high costs of resettling refugees in the United States, providing for them in neighboring countries in the Middle East may be a more cost effective way to help

them.

We are highly skeptical of the vetting capability of the U.S. government in spite of what we have heard. We do not want to resettle people in our county that may wish harm to our residents. We also are aware that refugees from other parts of the world are many times infected with TB and other highly contagious diseases that we do not want to introduce into our community.

We want to go on record as stating Union County does not want to be forced into participation in the federal refugee resettlement program due either to your recent consent as Governor and/or because we fall within the permissible placement radius of a resettlement agency office.

Your consent decision has compelled us to make these two important requests of you:

- 1) Urgently, at the earliest possible time, we request you retract your consent for initial resettlement in Tennessee for both the one year period of time, as stated in your letter, and/or for the actual consent period required by the Funding Notice.
- 2) In the event you do not retract your consent for the initial refugee resettlement for both the one year period of time, as stated in you letter and/or the for the actual consent period required by the Funding Notice, we request that you submit a revised letter of consent to Mike Pompeo, U.S. Secretarty of state as well as letters to Lt. Governor Randy McNally and TN House Speaker Cameron Sexton that states: "Union County, TN is exempt from the forced participation in resettlement of refugees in Tennessee and shall remain exempt even though parts of Union County, TN may lie within the permissible placement radius of resettlement agency office."

We will look forward to your taking swift action on our requests.

Respectfully,

Union County, TN Commissioners