[Supporting Ukrainian Refugees]

Resolution in support of Ukrainian refugees, urging the City and County of San Francisco to welcome Ukrainian refugees and declaring the City and County’s support for Ukrainian refugees.

WHEREAS, Russia launched an unexpected and horrific full-scale military invasion into Ukraine on February 24, 2022; and

WHEREAS, This invasion has had devastating consequences for human rights in the region, with the International Organization for Migration estimating that nearly 6.5 million people have been displaced within Ukraine resulting in hundreds of civilian deaths; and

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden has described Russian President Vladimir Putin as a "war criminal" for engaging in these atrocious acts, with leaders of the United Nations, G7, European Union, and other countries standing in solidarity to condemn Russian actions and support Ukrainian forces; and

WHEREAS, This attack continues to threaten civilian lives, businesses, and infrastructure; causing acute food shortages and is mass displacement; and

WHEREAS, Economic and social rights have already been negatively impacted, including lack of medical supplies and lack of access to healthcare and to an adequate standard of living; and

WHEREAS, According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a third of the displaced have left the country, producing the fastest moving refugee crisis since World War II; and
WHEREAS, United Nations data shows that primary destinations for the refugees are Poland, Romania, Hungary, Moldova and Slovakia but as the war grinds on, people are likely to move on from temporary shelters on the borders; and

WHEREAS, In an emergency United Nations General Assembly session on March 2, 2022, 141 of 193 member states voted to condemn Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and demanded that Russia immediately cease its use of force in Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, The United States has issued escalating sanctions on the financial assets of Russian President, Vladimir Putin, Russian elites and their family members, removing Russian banks from the global SWIFT financial messaging system, and banning United States imports of Russian oil and natural gas; and

WHEREAS, United States Census Bureau data shows that about 14,000 Bay Area residents were born in Ukraine and about 26,000 claim Ukrainian ancestry. The Bay Area has a larger number of residents with ties to Ukraine than any other city in California and in the United States, with 53 residents per 10,000 having a direct ancestral tie to Ukraine and San Francisco having 62 residents per 10,000 who claim Ukrainian ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Ukraine has a Consulate located in San Francisco that is collecting donations and humanitarian aid for refugees, and helping people sign up to volunteer with trusted organizations; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco’s small businesses, organizations and residents have come together to raise money for Ukrainians with vigils, benefit concerts, marches and fundraising events being held all across the City; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco-based companies are offering assistance to the people of Ukraine - Airbnb has offered free temporary housing to 100,000 Ukrainian refugees, Google, Facebook and Twitter have all blocked Russian companies from generating any ad revenue on their websites; and
WHEREAS, Wells Fargo Bank, headquartered in San Francisco, announced a million-dollar donation to three aid organizations helping in Ukraine - The Red Cross, the United Services Organizations (USO) and World Central Kitchen; and

WHEREAS, Ukrainians in San Francisco have mobilized to raise thousands of dollars in a grassroots effort to help their community back home, with the most notable local efforts coming from small business owners like Puskin (San Francisco's only Ukrainian restaurant) and Hromada SF a local non-profit serving the Ukrainian community; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco Mayor London Breed issued a letter to the San Francisco Retirement Board asking the Board to divest from financial and investment ties to Russia and the Russian government; and

WHEREAS, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed an Executive Order ordering State agencies to ensure that all their contractors comply with economic sanctions imposed on Russia in response to Russia's attacks on Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, State Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire has announced plans to introduce legislation that would require the California Public Employees' Retirement System and California State Teachers' Retirement System to divest from Russian investments; and

WHEREAS, Major cities and states across the nation with the highest populations of Ukrainian immigrants (New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois, California) are standing in solidarity through a range of legislative efforts; and

WHEREAS, In New York City, Mayor Eric Adams called on the Biden administration to protect Ukrainians who are currently in the U.S. and aid Ukrainians abroad who seek refuge; New York City Council Member Inna Vernikov has been coordinating with refugee camps in order to resettle people and supply them with food, shelter and medicine; and New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced that the state stands ready to welcome Ukrainian refugees, while also pushing state agencies to curb business with Russian entities; and
WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania State Legislature introduced a resolution urging Congress to take further action to support Ukraine by blocking all assets and all transactions of Russian banking institutions and placing an embargo on Russian oil and gas; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey State Legislature introduced a bill that would prohibit public entities in that state from doing business with Russia or companies that have close ties with the Russian government, while also introducing a resolution that condemns the Russian invasion and affirms support for Ukrainian independence; and

WHEREAS, Legislators in California issued a statement condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the strongest possible terms, while also asking President Biden to set in motion the welcoming of Ukrainian refugees to the United States on humanitarian grounds; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has a proud history of pro-immigration policies, including, but not limited to the 1989 Sanctuary Ordinance and the 2013 Due Process for All Ordinance. In 2017, then Mayor Ed Lee re-affirmed San Francisco's sanctuary city policy; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports and welcomes refugees from Ukraine into our community and urges our state and federal leaders to act immediately and with determination to rightfully bring at-risk and vulnerable Ukrainian peoples and their families to the United States; specifically, the Board of Supervisors encourages California to accept more and house more Ukrainian refugees and supports access to significant opportunities and benefits to individuals and families arriving from Ukraine; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors calls upon our residents, community leaders, businesses, faith-based organizations, and community-based organizations to welcome these Ukrainian families in offering benefits and services to Ukrainian refugees

Supervisors Haney; Mandelman
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
including, but not limited to, housing, food, legal representation, and familial reunification efforts; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco hereby urges President Joe Biden and the federal government to work speedily to resolve visa requirements, and to establish a mechanism to quickly and efficiently accept refugees from the Ukraine; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution be forwarded to the Offices of President Joe Biden, California Governor Gavin Newsom, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.
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April 05, 2022 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/5/2022 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board