

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2016 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-9-2016
Proposed by Council Members Turner, Davis, Glaros and Taveras
Introduced by Council Members Turner, Davis, Glaros, Taveras and Lehman
Co-Sponsors _____
Date of Introduction February 2, 2016

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 The Syrian Refugee Crisis and Immigration Enforcement Procedures

3 For the purpose of expressing County Council support for the importance of diversity and
4 inclusiveness by Prince George's County and the State of Maryland in response to Governor
5 Hogan's approach to the Syrian refugee crisis as well as the unduly aggressive immigration
6 enforcement procedures by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

7 WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded by those seeking to escape tyranny
8 and secure for themselves and their posterity a better future; and

9 WHEREAS, millions of Americans can proudly trace their ancestry back to immigrants or
10 refugees from other nations, and routinely celebrate the history, customs, and traditions of those
11 lands; and

12 WHEREAS, the number of refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria to neighboring countries
13 has now eclipsed four million, thus confirming the Syrian refugee crisis as the world's single
14 largest refugee crisis in almost a quarter century; and

15 WHEREAS, President Obama has stated that "we do not close our hearts to these victims of
16 such violence and somehow start equating the issue of refugees with the issue of terrorism"; and

17 WHEREAS, Governor Hogan requested federal authorities to cease any additional
18 settlements of refugees from Syria in Maryland until the U.S. government can provide
19 appropriate assurances that refugees from Syria pose no threat to public safety; and

20 WHEREAS, over the past few weeks, there have been reports that United States
21 Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") has a comprehensive plan to locate and
22 apprehend children and families who have fled violence in Central America and who have been

1 issued final orders of removal from the United States by a court; and

2 WHEREAS, according to ICE, about 120 adults and children around the country have been
3 detained in raids thus far, and several hundred more are targets; and

4 WHEREAS, Prince George's County is very concerned about the fear and anxiety this
5 situation is creating in many of our neighborhoods and believes the proposed enforcement should
6 be done in a manner that considers the real dangers and other challenges these families
7 experienced in their countries before coming to the United States of America; and

8 WHEREAS, the County has asked the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to avoid
9 conducting enforcement in places such as schools, hospitals, grocery stores, places of
10 employment, places of worship, non-profit organizations, or County social service offices; and

11 WHEREAS, all refugees should be treated with dignity, care, and compassion that every
12 person deserves and the federal government's response to the potential deportation of children
13 and families should be executed in the most humane and respectful manner possible; and

14 WHEREAS, the County has been enriched by the contributions of generations of people
15 from around the world; and

16 WHEREAS, the County's diversity is one of our greatest strengths and our immigrant
17 community is an integral part of the fabric that makes this County a very special place; and

18 WHEREAS, the County joins with our sister Maryland jurisdictions, including
19 Montgomery County, Howard County and the City of Greenbelt, in expressing our views.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
21 County, Maryland, that the Council expresses its support for the importance of diversity and
22 inclusiveness by the County and the State of Maryland in response to Governor Hogan's
23 approach to the Syrian refugee crisis as well as the unduly aggressive immigration enforcement
24 procedures by ICE.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County continues to welcome visitors and
26 prospective residents, regardless of national origin or refugee status.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to President of the
28 United States Barack Obama, Maryland Governor Lawrence Hogan and Prince George's County
29 Executive Rushern L. Baker, III.

Adopted this 2nd day of February, 2016.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Derrick Leon Davis
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council