



JOSEPH K. WOOD
County Judge

280 N. College Ave, Ste 500
Fayetteville, AR 72701

WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS
County Courthouse

December 26, 2019

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo
U.S. Department of State
2201 C. Street NW
Washington D.C. 20520

Re: Refugee Resettlement Authorization

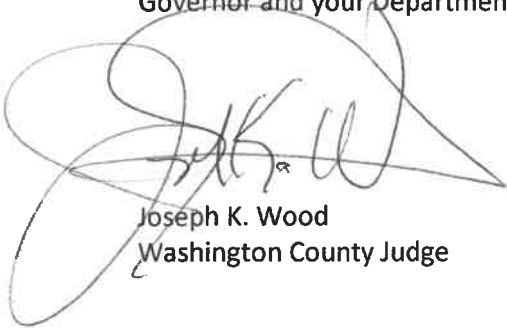
Dear Secretary Pompeo,

This letter is in reference to President Trump's Executive Order 13888 "Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement." I consent to initial refugee resettlement in Arkansas in accordance to the terms of the Executive Order. I look forward to the continued evaluation and precautionary measures that accompany this enhanced process. My hope is that this process will better serve the vulnerable refugee population as well as address the public safety concerns of my Washington County residents.

Washington County is one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Along with that growth our homeless population has soared. This adds to the complexity of keeping our citizens safe, which is my primary responsibility as County Judge. I am confident that this Order addresses any possible safety concerns.

I recognize that resettling the vulnerable refugee population serves both humanitarian and economic interests within our community. Washington County's rich tradition reflects the American Melting Pot and in accord with this ideal we support Executive Order 13888

Thank you again for having us participate in the process. I look forward to working with the Governor and your Department to better the experience of those resettling and ensuring public safety.



Joseph K. Wood
Washington County Judge

CC: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

December 2, 2019

Dear Governor Hutchinson,

I write to you today about the future of the refugee resettlement program in Arkansas. On September 26, 2019, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13888[1], which requires your formal consent for continued refugee resettlement in the Natural State. Given the life-saving nature of this program, I would like to join with Canopy NWA in asking you to provide this consent.

Over the last three years, Canopy NWA has resettled 45 families from over a dozen countries in collaboration with local city governments, school districts, health providers, faith communities and workforce development agencies. In this short period of time, they have enriched our community with their new languages, cultural practices and religious beliefs and have sought to become engaged community members, participating in school sports, volunteering and engaging deeply with their communities of faith.

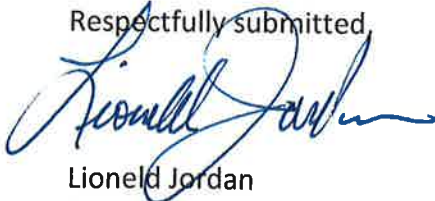
They have also made substantial economic contributions to our community. Sixty-seven working age adults are employed in a variety of sectors, from the Walmart Home Office to the poultry industry, earning an average wage of \$14.15/hour. Eight adults so far have completed certificate programs in the healthcare field and are now able to meet the growing workforce demands in that sector. As a result of these high employment rates, 98 percent of refugee households are now financially self-sufficient and have seen reductions in or termination of public assistance due to employment. Three of these households have purchased homes in Arkansas and two have started small businesses.

While it's still too early to meaningfully measure the economic impact of refugee resettlement in Arkansas, other states provide a bright economic forecast: in Georgia, refugees contributed \$133 million to the state economy in 2015 and in Minnesota, they contributed \$277 million. Nationally, as a study by President Trump's Department of Health and Human Services recently noted, refugees contributed \$63 billion dollars in federal tax revenue over the past decade.

I believe that no matter the color of your skin, where you're from, who you love, or your religious beliefs, everyone is welcome here in Fayetteville. Today and every day. Fayetteville is an engaged, progressive community that cares deeply about equality, civic involvement, and inclusion. When families and individuals from other countries arrive here, whether as a new Americans, permanent residents, or visitors on a student or work visa, we want them to thrive and flourish in our community.

Our country and our state have a proud history of bipartisan support for refugee resettlement. This lifesaving humanitarian work benefits our world's most vulnerable—as well as our local faith communities, employers and governments. It is for these reasons that I ask you to provide the consent necessary for refugee resettlement to continue in Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lioneld Jordan", written over the typed name.

Lioneld Jordan
Mayor



SPRINGDALE™
WE'RE MAKING IT HAPPEN

www.SpringdaleAR.gov

December 30, 2019

The Honorable Governor Asa Hutchinson
250 State Capitol Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Re: United States Refugee Admissions Program
President's Executive Order 13888

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

With this letter, I write to affirm that the City of Springdale will continue to participate in the United States Refugee Admissions Program. As Mayor of the City of Springdale, I consent to initial resettlement in our city as per the terms of the President's Executive Order 13888. This consent is valid unless or until it is withdrawn.

Springdale is one of the fastest growing cities in Arkansas, with a current unemployment rate of below 2.5%. Our city, state, and nation have a rich history of welcoming those who flee persecution, come here for a better life, and who long to participate in the American Dream. We welcome those who have gone through a robust vetting process, and are legally seeking to become productive members of our community.

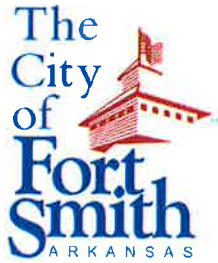
Sincerely,

Doug Sprouse
Mayor
City of Springdale, Arkansas

Doug Sprouse Mayor

(479) 750.8114 phone | (479) 750.8559 fax | 201 Spring Street | Springdale, Arkansas 72764

Office of the Mayor



George B. McGill

Governor Asa Hutchinson
State Capitol Room 350
500 Woodlane Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201

January 9, 2020

Dear Governor Hutchinson,

I write to you today about the future of the refugee resettlement program in Arkansas. On September 26, 2019, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13888[1], which requires your formal consent for continued refugee resettlement in the Natural State. Given the life-saving nature of this program, the City of Fort Smith would like to join in with other state organizations in asking you to provide this consent.

The City of Fort Smith has a long history of supporting refugees. Fort Chaffee was selected to host Vietnamese and Cuban refugees, as well as, those impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The diverse population contributes greatly to our city, state and nation.

While it's still too early to meaningfully measure the economic impact of refugee resettlement in Arkansas, other states provide a bright economic forecast: in Georgia, refugees contributed \$133 million to the state economy in 2015 and in Minnesota, they contributed \$277 million. Nationally, as a study by President Trump's Department of Health and Human Services recently noted, refugees contributed \$63 billion dollars in federal tax revenue over the past decade.

Our country and our state have a proud history of bipartisan support for refugee resettlement. This lifesaving humanitarian work benefits our world's most vulnerable—as well as our local faith communities, employers and governments. It is for these reasons that I ask you to provide the consent necessary for refugee resettlement to continue in Arkansas.

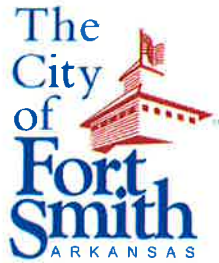
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George B. McGill".

George B. McGill, Mayor
City of Fort Smith, Arkansas

623 Garrison Ave • P.O. Box 1908
Fort Smith, AR 72902
Office (479) 784-2201 • FAX (479) 784-2430
e-mail: Mayor@fortsmithar.gov
www.fortsmithar.gov

Office of the Mayor



George B. McGill

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20520

January 9, 2020

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

This letter is in reference to Executive Order 13888, "*On Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement.*"

As Mayor, of the City of Fort Smith, I, George B. McGill, consent to continued refugee resettlement in Arkansas in collaboration with local municipalities, faith communities, non-profits and employers, to assist President Trump and the federal executive in achieving their stated resettlement goals in the FY2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George B. McGill".

George B. McGill, Mayor
City of Fort Smith, Arkansas

CC:
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Carol T. O'Connell
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
U.S. Department of State



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

Megan Godfrey

500 Janet Street

Springdale, Arkansas 72762-5045

479-200-4460 Cell

megan.godfrey@arkansashouse.org

DISTRICT 89

Counties:

Part Washington

COMMITTEES:

Public Transportation

Motor Vehicle and Highways

Subcommittee

State Agencies and Governmental Affairs

Vice Chairperson,

Elections Subcommittee

November 26, 2019

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
Governor, State of Arkansas
State Capitol
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 250
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

I write to you today about the future of the refugee resettlement program in Arkansas. It likely comes as no surprise to you that I am supportive of Arkansas' welcoming efforts for refugees in our state. On September 26, 2019, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 3888[1], which requires your formal consent for continued refugee resettlement in the Natural State. Given the life-saving nature of this program and our shared values of compassion and creating a welcoming state for all, as a representative of a community that would like to join with Canopy NWA in asking you to provide this consent.

Over the last three years, Canopy NWA has resettled 45 families from over a dozen countries in collaboration with local city governments, school districts, health providers, faith communities and workforce development agencies. In this short period of time, they have enriched our community with their new languages, cultural practices and religious beliefs and have sought to become engaged community members, participating in school sports, volunteering and engaging deeply with their communities of faith.

They have also made substantial economic contributions to our community. Sixty-seven working age adults are employed in a variety of sectors, from the Walmart Home Office to the poultry industry, earning an average wage of \$14.15/hour. Eight adults so far have completed certificate programs in the healthcare field and are now able to meet the growing workforce demands in that sector. As a result of these high employment rates, 98 percent of refugee households are now financially self-sufficient and have seen reductions in or

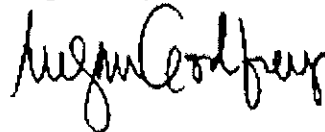
termination of public assistance due to employment. Three of these households have purchased homes in Arkansas and two have started small businesses.

While it's still too early to meaningfully measure the economic impact of refugee resettlement in Arkansas, other states provide a bright economic forecast: in Georgia, refugees contributed \$133 million to the state economy in 2015 and in Minnesota, they contributed \$277 million. Nationally, as a study by President Trump's Department of Health and Human Services recently noted, refugees contributed \$63 billion dollars in federal tax revenue over the past decade.

I am so grateful for your partnership during the legislative session to pass life-changing, bi-partisan legislation for immigrants in our state. In the same spirit of welcome and compassion, I hope that you will continue the refugee resettlement work here in Arkansas. Our country and our state have a proud history of bipartisan support for refugee resettlement. This life-saving humanitarian work benefits our world's most vulnerable—as well as our local faith communities, employers and governments. It is for these reasons that I humbly ask you to provide the consent necessary for refugee resettlement to continue in Arkansas.

Thank you for your leadership. I am proud to serve the state and its diverse communities with you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Megan Godfrey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Megan" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Godfrey".

Megan Godfrey
State Representative
District 89



November 26, 2019

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
State Capitol
500 Woodlane Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Hutchinson,

I write to you today regarding the refugee resettlement program in Arkansas. On September 26, 2019, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13888[1], which requires your formal consent for continued refugee resettlement in Arkansas. Given the life-saving nature of this program, the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce would like to join with Canopy NWA in asking you to provide this consent.

Over the last three years, Canopy NWA has resettled 45 families from over a dozen countries in collaboration with local city governments, school districts, health providers, faith communities and workforce agencies. During this time, they have enriched our community with their new languages, cultural practices and religious beliefs and have sought to become engaged community members, participating in school sports, volunteering and engaging deeply with their communities of faith.

They have also made substantial economic contributions to our community. Sixty-seven working age adults are employed in a variety of sectors, from the Walmart Home Office to the poultry industry, earning an average wage of \$14.15/hour. Eight adults so far have completed certificate programs in the healthcare field and are now able to meet the growing workforce demands in that sector. As a result of these high employment rates, 98 percent of refugee households are now financially self-sufficient and have seen reductions in or termination of public assistance due to employment. Three of these households have purchased homes in Arkansas and two have started small businesses.

It is too early to precisely measure the economic impact of refugee resettlement in Arkansas, other states provide a bright economic forecast: in Georgia, refugees contributed \$133 million to the state economy in 2015 and in Minnesota, they contributed \$277 million. A study by the Department of Health and Human Services noted, refugees contributed \$63 billion dollars in federal tax revenue over the past decade.

Here in Northwest Arkansas we have a proud history of bipartisan support for refugee resettlement. This lifesaving humanitarian work helps the most vulnerable and benefits our local economy, by adding much needed workforce to needs. It is for these reasons that I ask you to provide the consent necessary for refugee resettlement to continue in Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Clark", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Clark
President and Chief Executive Officer
Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce
21 West Mountain Street, Suite. 300
Fayetteville, AR 72702



101 S Mt Olive St
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
479-524-6466

December 9, 2019

Dear Governor Hutchinson,

I write to you today about the future of the refugee resettlement program in Arkansas. On September 26, 2019, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13888[1], which requires your formal consent for continued refugee resettlement in the Natural State. Given the life-saving nature of this program, the Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce would like to join with Canopy NWA in asking you to provide this consent.

Over the last three years, Canopy NWA has resettled 45 families from over a dozen countries in collaboration with local city governments, school districts, health providers, faith communities and workforce development agencies.

While it's still too early to meaningfully measure the economic impact of refugee resettlement in Arkansas, other states provide a bright economic forecast: in Georgia, refugees contributed \$133 million to the state economy in 2015 and in Minnesota, they contributed \$277 million. Nationally, as a study by President Trump's Department of Health and Human Services recently noted, refugees contributed \$63 billion dollars in federal tax revenue over the past decade.

Our country and our state have a proud history of bipartisan support for refugee resettlement. This lifesaving humanitarian work benefits our world's most vulnerable—as well as our local faith communities, employers and governments. It is for these reasons that I ask you to provide the consent necessary for refugee resettlement to continue in Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "O. Wayne Mays". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending from the end.

O. Wayne Mays, President/CEO

wayne@siloamchamber.com
479-524-6466

FIELD AGENT®

December 2, 2019

Dear Governor Hutchinson,

I write to you today about the future of the refugee resettlement program in Arkansas. On September 26, 2019, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13888[1], which requires your formal consent for continued refugee resettlement in the Natural State. Given the life-saving nature of this program, I would like to join with Canopy NWA in asking you to provide this consent.

Over the last three years, Canopy NWA has resettled 45 families from over a dozen countries in collaboration with local city governments, school districts, health providers, faith communities and workforce development agencies. In this short period of time, they have enriched our community with their new languages, cultural practices and religious beliefs and have sought to become engaged community members, participating in school sports, volunteering and engaging deeply with their communities of faith.

They have also made substantial economic contributions to our community. Sixty-seven working age adults are employed in a variety of sectors, from the Walmart Home Office to the poultry industry, earning an average wage of \$14.15/hour. Eight adults so far have completed certificate programs in the healthcare field and are now able to meet the growing workforce demands in that sector. As a result of these high employment rates, 98 percent of refugee households are now financially self-sufficient and have seen reductions in or termination of public assistance due to employment. Three of these households have purchased homes in Arkansas and two have started small businesses.

While it's still too early to meaningfully measure the economic impact of refugee resettlement in Arkansas, other states provide a bright economic forecast: in Georgia, refugees contributed \$133 million to the state economy in 2015 and in Minnesota, they contributed \$277 million. Nationally, as a study by President Trump's Department of Health and Human Services recently noted, refugees contributed \$63 billion dollars in federal tax revenue over the past decade.

As an entrepreneur and co-founder of Field Agent, Inc., one of the fast-growing technology companies in the state, located in Fayetteville, we are constantly looking to hire bright, hardworking people to help fuel our growth. We have recently hired Heri Lukambo, a resettled Congolese Refugee that is working on his college degree at NWACC. Heri is working alongside University of Arkansas and JBU students and has proven to be an excellent team member. On a personal level, my wife and our friends have welcomed Jeremiah and Eca Mlongeca, another resettled refugee family into our community group. We have grown to love their family and see how hard they are working to upskill themselves to take on higher value healthcare jobs in NW Arkansas. I believe these two families and the economic impact they have made are representative of the many other Canopy NWA families that I have had the pleasure to meet.

FIELD AGENT®

Our country and our state have a proud history of bipartisan support for refugee resettlement. This lifesaving humanitarian work benefits our world's most vulnerable—as well as our local faith communities, employers and governments. It is for these reasons that I ask you to provide the consent necessary for refugee resettlement to continue in Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry Ho
Co-Founder, Chief Strategy Officer
Field Agent, Inc.

Email: henry.ho@fieldagent.net
Mobile: 479-871-8564



November 19, 2019

Dear Governor Hutchinson,

I write to you today about the future of the refugee resettlement program in Arkansas. On September 26, 2019, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13888[1], which requires your formal consent for continued refugee resettlement in the Natural State. Given the life-saving nature of this program, Mike McDaniel, Lead Pastor of Grace Point Church, would like to join with Canopy NWA in asking you to provide this consent.

Over the last three years, Canopy NWA has resettled 45 families from over a dozen countries in collaboration with local city governments, school districts, health providers, faith communities and workforce development agencies. In this short period of time, they have enriched our community with their new languages, cultural practices and religious beliefs and have sought to become engaged community members, participating in school sports, volunteering and engaging deeply with their communities of faith.

They have also made substantial economic contributions to our community. Sixty-seven working age adults are employed in a variety of sectors, from the Walmart Home Office to the poultry industry, earning an average wage of \$14.15/hour. Eight adults so far have completed certificate programs in the healthcare field and are now able to meet the growing workforce demands in that sector. As a result of these high employment rates, 98 percent of refugee households are now financially self-sufficient and have seen reductions in or termination of public assistance due to employment. Three of these households have purchased homes in Arkansas and two have started small businesses.

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Governor we know many of the same people and share many of the same convictions. I can personally say that working with refugees has been an incredibly fruitful time in my life. I can also say as pastor of Grace Point Church that our church is fully supportive of the work with refugees. We see Jesus himself, formerly himself a refugee to Egypt, (Matthew 2:13-14) and believe it is in the best representation of the Christian ethic to be fully involved with love and compassion to the most vulnerable and in need (Matthew 25:40-45).

Our country and our state have a proud history of bipartisan support for refugee resettlement. This lifesaving humanitarian work benefits our world's most vulnerable—as well as our local faith communities, employers and governments. It is for these reasons that I ask you to provide the consent necessary for refugee resettlement to continue in Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McDaniel, Lead Pastor

GRACE POINT CHURCH of NORTHWEST ARKANSAS • Mike McDaniel, Lead Pastor
1201 NE McCollum Drive, Bentonville, Arkansas 72712
Office: 479-464-7223 • Fax: 479-464-4898
www.GracePointChurch.net



/GracePointNWA



Connecting people to God through the Gospel of Christ

December 3, 2019

Dear Governor Hutchinson,

I write to you today about the future of the refugee resettlement program in Arkansas. On September 26, 2019, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13888[1], which requires your formal consent for continued refugee resettlement in the Natural State. Given the life-saving nature of this program, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church would like to join with Canopy NWA in asking you to provide this consent.

Over the last three years, Canopy NWA has resettled 45 families from over a dozen countries in collaboration with local city governments, school districts, health providers, faith communities and workforce development agencies. In this short period of time, they have enriched our community with their new languages, cultural practices and religious beliefs and have sought to become engaged community members, participating in school sports, volunteering and engaging deeply with their communities of faith.

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Our country and our state have a proud history of bipartisan support for refugee resettlement. This lifesaving humanitarian work benefits our world's most vulnerable—as well as our local faith communities, employers and governments. It is for these reasons that I ask you to provide the consent necessary for refugee resettlement to continue in Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted,

†
Pastor Clint

Rev. Dr. Clint Schnekloth, 479-799-3120

LETTER OF THANKS AND OF REQUESTS FROM A RECENTLY RESETTLED REFUGEE IN ARKANSAS

March 12, 2019

To Our Governor,

On behalf of the recently resettled refugees in Northwest Arkansas, I would like to present to you, our distinguished Governor, our deep and sincere thanks for having facilitated our resettlement in your good and beautiful country.

Your good will is a direct representation of God who had compassion on the children of Israel, who were in the extreme miseries of slavery, and helped them leave Egypt and brought them to a good and vast country, flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:7-8), and of His son Jesus who drew near to those who were weary and heavy burdened and promised them rest (Matthew 11:28).

I beg of you to continue this good will and allow for the refugee resettlement program to once again resettle refugees at the historic average volume of 80,000 per year, showing them the same compassion you showed me. Your country is not just flowing with milk and honey, but with incredible opportunity, perfect peace, security, rights, comforts and even the chance for leisure and fun. It is as close as we come to heaven on earth.

We have so much gratitude for our resettlement agency, Canopy NWA, for their generosity, empathy and kindness, as well as that of our co-sponsors and the whole community in Northwest Arkansas. Our community truly is an incredible representation of the best characteristics of all Americans, and so we extend our sincere thanks to the American people for making it possible for us to resettle here. May God bless you richly.

We know that we are ignorant about a lot of things and that sometimes we unwittingly commit cultural mistakes that can be upsetting or frustrating to our receiving community. For that, we apologize and promise to continue learning and becoming the best Americans we can. It is certainly a big challenge for us to adapt and conform, but it is nothing like the challenges we fled.

We come to you having fled from all-out war: massacres, genocide (even if it hasn't received that title, I believe it is fitting as more than 6 million souls have been murdered in the Democratic Republic of Congo since the conflict began), rape of our women and girls and the resulting spread of auto-immune disease among our people, stalled education, lack of healthcare or hygiene—all of these things taking the lives of innocent people every day. We have witnessed the violation of human rights, democracy and independence, the oppression and suppression of voters. And we have watched all these things repeat themselves over and over again as our country lives and relives the cycle of war and massacre.

Then there were the refugee camps where we suffered from malnutrition, depending on rations that were always fluctuating and never enough, insufficient drinking water, and perpetual outbreaks of diseases, such as malaria.

Arriving here in the US was like being raised from the dead!