

**RESOLUTION NO. 52 OF 2022**

**A RESOLUTION TO THANK PRESIDENT BIDEN FOR COMMITTING THE UNITED STATES TO ACCEPTING 100,000 UKRAINIAN REFUGEES AND TO CONVEY THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT'S WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE AND WARMLY WELCOME THOSE REFUGEES, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.**

**BY COUNCILMEMBER: JOHN NICKELSON**

**WHEREAS**, in the fall of 2021, Ukrainian officials reported that the Russian government placed 100,000 troops near the border of Ukraine; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 21, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia recognized the independence of the separatist Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics (DPR and LPR); and

**WHEREAS**, three days later, on February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, attacks by Russian forces were reported in major cities across Ukraine, including Berdyansk, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Sumy, and the capital Kyiv; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) verified 1,563 thousand deaths of civilians in Ukraine during the war as of April 5, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the war resulted in a humanitarian crisis, as millions of Ukrainians fled to the west of their country and abroad; and

**WHEREAS**, since Russia started its invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, over 4.31 million refugees left their homes in Ukraine and headed toward other countries as of April 6, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, neighboring Poland recorded the highest number of refugees, at nearly 2.5 million as of April 4, 2022, followed by Romania, Moldova, and Hungary; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2022, the Biden administration announced the United States plans to welcome up to 100,000 Ukrainians and others fleeing Russia's aggression through the full range of legal pathways, including the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the administration is also working to expand and develop new programs with a focus on welcoming Ukrainians who have family members in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has a long history of offering refuge to those fleeing persecution and war; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has historically led the world in refugee resettlement, since 1980, the U.S. has taken in 3 million of the more than 4 million refugees resettled worldwide.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Shreveport in due, regular, and legal session convened that the City Council hereby thanks President Biden for committing the United States to accepting 100,000 Ukrainian refugees and hereby conveys the City's willingness to receive and warmly welcome as many of those refugees as the President's administration thinks prudent to send to the City of Shreveport.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, President Joseph R. Biden, Senators Bill Cassidy and John Kennedy, Representative Mike Johnson, and Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States Oksana Markarova.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or application of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items, or application and, to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared servable.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:**

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City Attorney's Office