



JOEL ANDERSON
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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ANDERSON LEADS CHARGE AT THE COUNTY TO COORDINATE ON AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

County to call on federal government to use seized Taliban assets for resettlement efforts

(SAN DIEGO) – On Tuesday, October 5, 2021, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed Supervisor Joel Anderson’s recommendation to develop a comprehensive plan to address housing and resettlement needs for anticipated influx of Afghan refugees into our region. The Board’s actions also direct the County to work with Congress to utilize frozen Taliban assets to fund Afghan refugee resettlement activities.

Supervisor Anderson commented, “I am thankful that my colleagues recognize the importance of this measure that will ensure San Diego County is ready to welcome these refugees into our communities.” He added, “East County, where I represent, has a large population of Afghans and others with Middle Eastern heritage. The actions taken today will help guarantee clear communication and coordination among government and non-profits to provide the resources needed to protect these vulnerable individuals.”

Following the Taliban’s resurgence and the withdrawal of the U.S. military from Afghanistan on August 31, 2021, a majority of the \$9.5 billion in Afghanistan government assets were frozen by the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control and the Treasury Secretary. The U.S. has taken similar actions in the past when leaders hostile to our government take power in foreign nations.

Anderson's board letter directed the Chief Administrative Officer to advocate for the use of the Afghanistan government assets frozen by the Administration to fund any and all costs to the State and County resulting from the resettlement of Afghan refugees.

While efforts to free more people from Afghan continue, it is estimated that an initial 58,000 Afghans are expected to arrive in the U.S. – many of whom were forced to depart their homes quickly, without their possessions. While the number of Afghans resettling in California is unknown, it is likely that they will settle in the communities that their friends and families live in. East County San Diego is home to a large number of former Afghan residents.

Although the County does not have a direct role in determining the number of Afghan refugees that will be resettling in San Diego County, Anderson says that it is critical for the County, through the OIRA, to be ready to handle the incoming refugees.

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Supervisor Joel Anderson
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Anderson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.