

Resolution #4-R-20
Opposing the Deportation of Hmong and Lao Refugees

Submitted By: Alderperson Thao, District 7

Co-signers: Fenton, District 6; Van Zeeland, District 5; Meltzer, District 2; Firkus, District 3; Schultz, District 9; Williams, District 10 & Otis, District 15

Date: March 4, 2020

Referred To: Finance Committee

WHEREAS, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, on behalf of the Trump Administration, has engaged in discussions with the Lao People's Democratic Republic; and

WHEREAS, the State Department is calling on Laos to accept deported U.S. residents; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin is home to over 61,287 Hmong, Lao, Vietnamese, Cambodian and other ethnic minority groups from Laos, many of whom are refugees as a result of the American involvement in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the state of Wisconsin is home to the third largest Hmong population in the United States and the City of Appleton has 3156 Hmong residents, ranking us 4th in the state of Wisconsin by the 2010 Census; and

WHEREAS, the Hmong community came to Wisconsin as refugees after fighting alongside US soldiers during the Vietnam War, in order to be rescued from retribution and genocide at the hands of the Communist Laotian government for the role they played in supporting the US fight for freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, proposed deportations would tear apart families and communities across the state of Wisconsin, harming not just the Hmong community but destabilizing the entire community at large, and subjecting individuals to the threat of imminent death in a foreign country; and

WHEREAS, Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees have already been subject to deportation for years and have faced severe hardship and retaliation; and

WHEREAS, the Hmong community is a vital inseparable part of our Wisconsin community, and Hmong communities across the state of Wisconsin have picked up the torch in furthering the values and ideas that have forged the state, becoming successful in agriculture and farming, in small businesses and entrepreneurship, and in working hard to support their families and to make the community a better place to live; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Appleton Common Council opposes efforts by the State Department and Trump Administration to allow for the deportation of Hmong and Lao U.S. residents to the Lao People's Democratic Republic; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the city clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to all members of the Wisconsin Congressional delegation, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and President Donald Trump.