



# City of Highland Park

Mayor's Office

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August 26, 2021

Hon. Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

The City of Highland Park, Illinois prides itself on being a welcoming, inclusive and open community to all, and we are deeply saddened by the situation in Afghanistan, both immediate and long-running. To that end, we stand ready to welcome any Afghan refugees who are evacuated from Afghanistan under Operation Allies Refuge. As you know, in the 20 years that U.S. forces were operating in Afghanistan, many alliances were built with Afghans who believed in the power of democracy, freedom and equality. Those individuals assisted the United States in carrying out its mission in Afghanistan by serving as security forces, contractors, reporters for international news outlets, humanitarian workers, translators, and interpreters, and served alongside our military personnel to defeat Taliban tyranny. These individuals risked their lives, as well as the lives of their loved ones, by serving as allies to the United States in the hope of bringing peace and advancing democratic ideologies and freedom within their homeland.

As seen in recent weeks, the Taliban resurgence in Afghanistan presents a grave danger to our Afghan allies, to whom our nation made a promise to protect and assist. In support of that promise, as Afghan refugees resettle in the United States, our community offers its support to ensure that those individuals who assisted Americans while in Afghanistan are given every opportunity to experience lives of liberty, freedom and the pursuit of happiness.

Our diverse nation was built through the resettlement of immigrants from around the world seeking better lives and in pursuit of the American dream. The time for action is now to support our Afghan allies who made incredible sacrifices on our behalf. The City of Highland Park, Illinois is committed to working with federal, state, regional and NGO partners to assist Afghan refugees, ensuring that they are given the opportunity to pursue fulfilling and peaceful lives in the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Nancy R. Rotering  
Mayor

