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Barb Byrum
INGHAM COUNTY CLERK

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November 25, 2015

Michigan Association of Counties
935 N. Washington Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48906

Please find enclosed Resolution #15-452, a Resolution to reaffirm that Ingham County, Michigan is a welcoming county and respects the innate dignity of all people.

Resolution #15-452 was passed by the Ingham County Board of Commissioners on November 24, 2015.

Please feel free to contact me if I may ever be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Barb Byrum
Ingham County Clerk

Enclosure

Introduced by the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THAT INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN IS A WELCOMING
COUNTY AND RESPECTS THE INNATE DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE**

RESOLUTION # 15 -452

WHEREAS, Resolution 14-333 affirmed that Ingham County is a welcoming community and respects the innate dignity of all people; and

WHEREAS, Ingham County remains committed to welcoming refugees fleeing violence and not allowing acts of terrorism such as those seen in Paris, Beirut and Nigeria to be wrongly connected to an entire group of people. Refugees should be respected, protected and supported. Our community is a place for everyone. Being true to the values of our welcoming county requires us to speak out; and

WHEREAS, Ingham County recognizes that due to violence and atrocities worldwide, more than 50 million people have fled conflict and oppression in their own country, and only a miniscule portion, less than 1%, will ever be selected for refugee resettlement to the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ingham County believes that we must demonstrate our welcoming character and live up to our ideals as a nation founded on freedom and acceptance. The statue of Liberty states "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." As a country it is not our custom to turn our backs on people who are in need. We decry those who have played into fear tactics and attempted to close the door to refugees, particularly from Syria. Ingham County has been and will continue to be a safe and welcoming place for refugees who resettle here; and

WHEREAS, Ingham County recognizes that the safety of American citizens is of utmost importance, and welcoming refugees does not compromise this safety. In fact, the history of the U.S. refugee program demonstrates that the lengthy and extensive vetting that all refugees must undergo is an effective deterrent for terrorists. Since 1975, the U.S. has welcomed over 3 million refugees, including hundreds of thousands from the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, Ingham County has long been a welcoming place where refugees have been resettled and contributed to the rich fabric of our community as positively contributing members. As a state, Michigan has been one of the top five states for welcoming refugees each year. Ingham County is home to an estimated 17,000 Refugees who are taxpayers, homeowners, and business owners. These newcomers are hardworking and productive additions to the economy and culture of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Ingham County is committed to building a neighborly and welcoming atmosphere in our community, where all are welcome, accepted and appreciated; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Ingham County wishes to express its solidarity with the thousands of refugees fleeing terror and oppression in their home communities.