SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Resolution in Support of Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in New Paltz

WHEREAS the United Nations having declared Syria to be the greatest refugee crisis since World War II, with more than half of the Syrian population having fled their homes since the beginning of the conflict in 2011;

WHEREAS the United Nations has stated that the more than 4 million registered Syrian refugees living in five neighboring countries will not be able to return home any time soon and has called for resettling more than 400,000 refugees;

WHEREAS those 400,000 refugees scheduled for resettlement include those most at risk – including children without parents, single parents, victims of torture or violence, women at risk and people with family reunification needs;

WHEREAS Syrians now face increasing challenges to find safety and protection in these neighboring countries, which, faced with overwhelming refugee numbers, insufficient international support and security concerns, have taken measures this year to stem the flow of refugees;

WHEREAS to date the United States, which traditionally takes the lead in resettling UN registered refugees, has taken in only 1,500 Syrian refugees since 2011;

WHEREAS the pledge by President Obama to take in an additional 10,000 Syrian refugees is insufficient to meaningfully contribute to the United Nations reaching its resettlement goal;

WHEREAS the refugees in the program are all registered with the United Nations and cannot return to Syria because of a well-founded fear of persecution and will be reviewed by a proven vetting system in the United States;

WHEREAS the principle of protecting refugees is a core part of this country's identity as a nation committed to freedom and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of New Paltz and Village of New Paltz Boards declare their support for resettlement of unregistered Syrian refugees in our community and call upon other New York communities to join them in supporting a stronger national effort on Syrian resettlement.