

**A Citizen Committee for an Initiative and Referendum Regarding a
Call for Action by Elected Officials Representing the City of St. Cloud
Presented to the City Clerk on May 14th, 2018**

Under the provisions of the Home Rule Charter of the City of St. Cloud, Mn under the Comprehensive Revision Adopted March 18, 1952 and it's Amendments Through the Period of Time Ending July 10th, 2017 (Home Rule Charter), we the undersigned residents and registered voters in the City of St. Cloud acting as a Citizen Committee, as define by the Home Rule Charter, are exercising the Powers Reserved by the People under Article V of the Home Rule Charter, do here by petition for a proposed resolution of the City of St. Cloud addressing actions to be taken by elected officials of the City of St. Cloud regarding the federal government's Refugee Act of 1980 and it's amendments. Said resolution shall be placed before the voters of the City of St. Cloud at the next General Election. (Provisions of the Home Rule Charter are offered for information purposes following the signatures of the Citizen Committee)

Name	Address
John W. Palmer	832 Halliday Road, St. Cloud MN
Elizabeth Baklaich	1615 25th S SE, St. Cloud MN
Helena Halverson	814 Pebble Creek Drv, St. Cloud MN
Dave Steckling	2223 Clearwater Road, St. Cloud MN
Jeff Johnson	3347 Deer Creek Trl, St. Cloud MN

All legislative powers of the City and the determination of all matters of policy shall be vested in the Council. Without limitation of the foregoing, the Council shall have the power to:

- I. Adopt ordinances and resolutions in the manner hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2.65 Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions

Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, all legislation shall be by ordinance. The votes of Council members on any legislative action shall be recorded in accordance with statute. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, all powers, other than legislative, shall be exercised by resolutions or motions. Every resolution shall be presented in writing, and shall be read in full before a vote is taken thereon, unless the reading of a resolution is dispensed with by unanimous consent.

ARTICLE V Initiative, Referendum and Recall

Sec. 5.10 Powers Reserved by the People

The people of St. Cloud reserve to themselves the powers, in accordance with the provisions of this charter, to initiate and adopt ordinances, to require ordinances passed by the Council to be referred to the electorate for approval or disapproval, and to recall elected public officials. These powers shall be called the initiative, the referendum, and the recall, respectively.

Sec. 5.12 Citizen Committees for Initiative, Referendum and Recall

Any five registered voters may form themselves into a committee for the purpose of initiation of any measure of public concern or for the purpose of calling for referendum or recall.

Sec. 5.16 Petition Definition

The petition for the adoption of any proposed measure shall consist of the proposed measure and all necessary statements, together with the list of committee members' names and addresses, and all the attached signature papers and affidavits. These papers together shall comprise a single instrument.

Sec. 5.20 Initiative: Initiation of Proposed Measures

Any five (5) registered voters may form themselves into a committee for the initiation of any proposed measure of public concern. They shall prepare their proposed measure and conduct the signature gathering and file their completed petition according to Sec. 5.16 and Sec. 5.17.

Background Information From:
ABANDONED UPON ARRIVAL: IMPLICATIONS FOR REFUGEES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES
BURDENED BY A U.S. RESETTLEMENT SYSTEM THAT IS NOT WORKING
A REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
UNITED STATES SENATE
JULY 21, 2010
<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CPRT-111SPRT57483/pdf/CPRT-111SPRT57483.pdf>

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL
UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC, July 21, 2010.

DEAR COLLEAGUES: Since 1975, the United States has offered safe-haven to nearly 3 million refugees who faced persecution in Communist-controlled and conflict-ridden regions of the world. This resettlement reflects our Nation's noblest humanitarian traditions, and should continue. But we must acknowledge that significant costs are associated with this activity.

...Staff found that resettlement efforts in some U.S. cities are underfunded, overstretched, and failing to meet the basic needs of the refugee populations they are currently asked to assist.

...the current structure of the U.S. resettlement system is proving a strain on local resources and community relations.

...U.S. refugee policies and procedures are determined at the Federal level, but the burdens of addressing the unique needs of refugees after they arrive are passed on to local communities, often without their consent. Some resettled refugees are illiterate in their native language or suffer from severe physical or mental ailments and many are ill-equipped to secure employment in an increasingly competitive job market. The financial and mentoring assistance required to help this population achieve self-sufficiency exceeds the resources currently provided by the Federal Government.

In the future, the administration may determine that an increase in Federal funding or decrease in refugee admissions is warranted. But the practice of passing the costs of resettling refugees on to local communities should not continue.

RICHARD G. LUGAR,
Ranking Member.

From the Introduction: This study concludes that the policies promulgated in the Refugee Act of 1980 and the current system of refugee processing, orientation, placement, and resettlement assistance are out-dated and fail to address the needs of the culturally and linguistically diverse populations now being admitted to the United States.

Recommendations:

1. Enhance Formal Consultations with State and Local Leaders
2. Improve Access to English as Second Language (ESL) Courses
3. Invest in Education
4. Discard One-Size-Fits-All Approach
5. Improve Accountability
6. Explore Innovative Models
7. Promote Community Engagement

Eight years later, this report and its recommendations remain ignored. The findings remain valid today and the need for reform of the program is needed more today than eight years ago.

The Refugee Act of 1980 has been amended in a manner that stripped funding to cover local and state expenses from the Act and recent efforts completed by Dr. John W. Palmer Professor Emeritus of St. Cloud State University confirm that substantial expenses remain passed on to the local and state governments of the State of Minnesota.

Here are the major findings from Dr. Palmers work regarding the most recent and largest group (Somalis) resettled in Minnesota:

1. a higher than average “Not in Labor Force” rate (26%).
2. one of the highest “In Labor Force Unemployed” rates (19%).
3. one of the highest “Unemployed or Not in Labor Force” rate (41%).
4. the lowest household median income (\$18,400).
5. the highest “Percentage at/or Near Poverty” level (83%).
6. a greater dependance on government programs (\$81,000,000 in 2015)
7. income levels qualifying them for refundable tax credits
8. very low taxable income.
9. At least two health conditions (TB and HEP B) have the potential to breakout of the refugee population and impact other groups of people.
10. TB, which had become rare, has become a renewed public health problem primarily due to the arrival of non US Born residents.
11. The prevalence of drug resistant TB presents new threats and increasing costs to treat TB.
12. low income households compete for a very small number of low income housing rentals which increases reliance on substandard housing.
13. With \$1,687,200 in categorical aid offsetting \$3,672,580 in expenditures the district must come up with \$1,985,338 if the amount of EL aid for the 2016-17 school year was equal to this year’s estimated EL aid revenue.

It is time to suspend the refugee resettlement program until the program is reformed the Refugee Resettlement Act of 1980 to give control to those who pay the costs of resettlement consistent with the principle of no taxation without representation.

A Petition for adoption of a Resolution via Initiative and Referendum as defined in the St. Cloud Home Rule Charter under Article 5 of said Charter.

We being residents and registered voters in the City of St. Cloud wish to place before the voters of the City of St. Cloud the following resolution:

Where as the Federal Government of the United States of America (Federal Government) via the Congress and the Office of the President have either enacted or signed the Refugee Act of 1980 and it's Amendments and:

Where as the Federal Government has not honored it's commitment to fully fund state and local expenses associated with the placement of refugees within states and localities and;

Where as the Federal Government has failed to insure that states and localities have control over the placement of refugees within their jurisdictions and:

Where as the placement of refugees in the City of St. Cloud has created undue burdens of the community, be it therefore resolved that:

The Citizens of the City of St. Cloud call on all elected officials representing the residents of the City of St. Cloud to petition the President of the United States, acting with Congress to suspend placement of refugees under the Refugee Act of 1980 until the act is reformed in such a way as to provided local control over the placement of refugees within the City of St. Cloud and/or the State of Minnesota and fully cover the direct and indirect costs incurred by the City and/or State in support of each refugee resettled by either primary placement or secondary migration.