



# City of Akron, Ohio

DANIEL HORRIGAN, MAYOR

January 15, 2020

**Via Certified U.S. Mail Only**

Michael R. Pompeo, U.S. Secretary of State  
Carol T. O'Connell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo & Deputy Assistant Secretary O'Connell:

This letter is in reference to Executive Order 13888, "On Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement" (the "EO"). Please be advised that this communication and/or participation in the consent process described in the EO is not, and should not be construed as, an endorsement of the legality of the EO.

The City of Akron is a welcoming city that has a long and rich tradition of embracing immigrants and those seeking refuge in this great nation. For generations, immigrants and refugees from across the globe have come to Akron and Summit County in hopes of a better life and a brighter future. Many of us were raised on the stories of the optimism and apprehension our ancestors experienced as they embarked on a new and uncertain future in a foreign land. The life of a New American can be challenging, but America is the land of opportunity and Akron has long been a city of innovation and industry, where creative and hardworking men and women could learn, work, and raise a family.

And while the landscape of our community has evolved over the years, these core values have remained the same—we reward determination, overcome adversity, build bridges, and dream big. The New Americans of today share these values of hard work and individuality, bring fresh ideas and ingenuity to the table, and help to build a stronger economy for all of us.

A recent study demonstrated that as a result of immigrants and refugees settling in the greater Akron community, our local population is stabilizing, our tax base is strengthening, housing prices are climbing, and businesses are forming and reviving. Our local immigrant and refugee

populations support our community's growth and development in many ways and are essential to our future success.

In short, Akron has benefitted greatly from the placement and settlement of refugees in our community, and looks forward to doing so long into the future.

In light of the foregoing, I affirm that the City of Akron, Ohio will continue to take part in the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, and as Mayor, I consent to initial refugee resettlement within our city in accordance with the terms of the EO.

Sincerely,



Daniel Horrigan, Mayor  
City of Akron, Ohio