August 20, 2021

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

Dear President Biden,

Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse stand ready, willing, and able to assist, resettle, and welcome Afghan refugees to Central New York. Our nation made a promise to the brave Afghans that stepped forward to protect our military, diplomatic, and NGO personnel in Afghanistan. Now is the time to keep our promise by evacuating our allies and finding safe places for them to live and thrive in the United States.

Syracuse and Onondaga County have long been a haven for refugees. Since the nineteenth century, our region was built and settled by immigrants who came from someplace else in search of something greater. We invite Afghan refugees to join us here in Central New York to build something greater together.

In the coming months, we will work together with our refugee resettlement partners at Interfaith Works CNY and Catholic Charities of Onondaga County and the federal government to prepare our community. Central New York stands ready as a partner to bring as many of our Afghan allies out of harm as possible and into a welcoming, nurturing community in America.

Sincerely,

Hon. Ben Walsh
Hon. Helen Hudson
Hon. Joe Carni
City of Syracuse
Syracuse Common Council
Syracuse Common Council
Mayor
President
Minority Leader

Hon. J. Ryan McMahon
Hon. David Knapp
Hon. Linda Ervin
Onondaga County
Onondaga County Legislature
Onondaga County Legislature
County Executive
Chair
Minority Leader