



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  
City of Syracuse  
Mayor

Hon. Helen Hudson  
Syracuse Common Council  
President

Hon. Joe Carni  
Syracuse Common Council  
Minority Leader

Hon. J. Ryan McMahon II  
Onondaga County  
County Executive

Hon. David Knapp  
Onondaga County Legislature  
Chair

Hon. Linda Ervin  
Onondaga County Legislature  
Minority Leader