



March 2, 2022

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 are ready, willing and able to welcome and resettle Ukrainian refugees in Central New York. We condemn Russia's unprovoked attack and stand with the United States and the global community during this period of geopolitical crisis and human suffering.

Syracuse and Onondaga County have historically served as a safe haven for refugees from various parts of the world. Our community has long been home to a strong and proud Ukrainian community, joining New York State as home to the largest Ukrainian population in the United States. This experience makes Central New York an ideal location where Ukrainian citizens can find shelter on a short-term basis until they can return to their homes or settle permanently to be free of unjustified violence and war.

In the coming weeks and months, we will work together with our refugee resettlement partners at Interfaith Works CNY and Catholic Charities of Onondaga County, as well as New York State government to prepare our community. Central New York stands ready as a partner to bring as many of our Ukrainian allies out of harm's way as possible, welcoming refugees into a diverse and caring community in America.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ben Walsh in black ink.

Hon. Ben Walsh
City of Syracuse
Mayor

Handwritten signature of J. Ryan McMahan II in black ink.

Hon. J. Ryan McMahan II
Onondaga County
County Executive