



**Resolution No. 15 (2024)**  
**RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN IMMEDIATE PAUSE ON REFUGEE**  
**RESETTLEMENT IN ST. CROIX COUNTY**

**COVER MEMO**

**TO:** County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Ken Witt, County Administrator

**DATE:** March 12, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM:** Resolution Requesting an Immediate Pause on Refugee Resettlement in St. Croix County

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On March 5, 2024, the County Board voted to have a resolution drafted to address an immediate pause on refugee resettlement in St. Croix County



**Resolution No. 15 (2024)**  
**RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN IMMEDIATE PAUSE ON REFUGEE  
RESETTLEMENT IN ST. CROIX COUNTY**

1       **WHEREAS**, The Refugee Act of 1980, located at Title VI, Chapter 2 of the  
2       Immigration and Nationality Act, created The Federal Refugee Resettlement Program to  
3       provide for the effective resettlement of refugees; and  
4

5       **WHEREAS**, within the United States, the U.S. Department of State operates the U.S.  
6       Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) and the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), which  
7       assists refugees with access to various services in coordination with the states; and  
8

9       **WHEREAS**, within Wisconsin, the Bureau of Refugee Programs (BRP) receives grants  
10      from the ORR and funds local statewide organizations to provide critical services to refugees;  
11      and  
12

13      **WHEREAS**, voluntary agencies, referred to as VOLAGs, in Wisconsin that contract  
14      with state and/or federal governments to assist refugees with resettlement include World Relief  
15      Wisconsin with locations in the Fox Valley and the Chippewa Valley; and  
16

17      **WHEREAS**, the nearest voluntary agency to St. Croix County, Wisconsin is World  
18      Relief Chippewa Valley with an office located at 221 W. Madison Street in Eau Claire,  
19      Wisconsin; and  
20

21      **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of State requires that refugees be resettled within 100  
22      miles of a voluntary agency's physical office location; and  
23

24      **WHEREAS**, St. Croix County is located within 100 miles of World Relief Chippewa  
25      Valley; and  
26

27      **WHEREAS**, approximately 75 refugees are planned to be resettled in the Chippewa  
28      Valley by September 30, 2024; and  
29

30      **WHEREAS**, the resettlement of refugees in the United States requires significant  
31      financial resources to ensure their successful integration into society, including but not limited  
32      to, housing, healthcare, education, employment assistance, language training, and social services;  
33      and  
34

35      **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors are concerned about refugees  
36      being resettled within St. Croix County without the necessary long-term funding sources to  
37      sustain their integration without reliance upon the taxpayers of the county; and  
38

39      **WHEREAS**, St. Croix County is already stretched to its levy capacity without the ability  
40      to adequately fund state-mandated programs; and  
41

42      **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors are disappointed by the lack of  
43      transparency and communication by World Relief Chippewa Valley regarding the anticipated  
44      resettlement of refugees within 100 miles of St. Croix County; and

45  
46       **WHEREAS**, as refugees may be resettled within 100 miles of World Relief Chippewa  
47 Valley, collaboration and consultation with local government units within 100 miles of that  
48 location is imperative in order to inform the public of the resettlement of refugees, and for  
49 necessary studies to be conducted to ascertain the impact on the local communities.  
50

51       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the St. Croix County Board of  
52 Supervisors that there be an immediate pause on the placement of any refugees within St. Croix  
53 County.  
54

55       **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors will  
56 review this resolution at the May 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting  
57

58       **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** by the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors that,  
59 prior to the resettlement of refugees within St. Croix County, that all federal, state, local, or  
60 voluntary agencies involved with resettlement engage in collaboration and consultation with  
61 local government units within the county to inform the public of the resettlement, that adequate  
62 time be allocated to conduct studies necessary to ascertain the impact on local communities, and  
63 that the county be provided with a detailed description of the short and long-term funding  
64 resources available to the refugees.  
65

66       **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors directs  
67 the County Clerk to send copies of this resolution to World Relief Chippewa Valley, the Bureau  
68 of Refugee Programs, U.S. Department of State, and the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

**Legal – Fiscal – Administrative Approvals:**

Legal Note:

Fiscal Impact:

Advisory resolution has no fiscal impact.

  
Heather M. Amos, Corporation Counsel      3/8/2024

   
Dustin Hawkins, Finance Director      3/7/2024

  
Ken Witt, County Administrator      3/8/2024

Vote Confirmation.

**St. Croix County Board of Supervisors Action:**

Roll Call - Vote Requirement – Majority of Supervisors Present

**RESULT:**           **ADOPTED AS AMENDED [15 TO 4]**

**MOVER:**           Mike Barcalow, Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Mark Carlson, Supervisor

**AYES:** Lind, Anderson, Long, Adams, Berning, Ottino, Feidler, Ostness, Counter, Hansen, Sherley, Carlson, Barcalow, VanSomerén, Ramberg

**NAYS:** Cathy Leaf, Carah Koch, Greg Tellijohn, Bob Swanepoel

This Resolution was Adopted as Amended by the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors on March 12, 2024

Christine Hines, County Clerk