A RESOLUTION
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE PARK
CONDEMNING THE BAN ON REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

WHEREAS, the City of College Park has a long history of welcoming immigrants and building an open, caring, and inclusive community that celebrates its diversity, welcomes the vulnerable and disadvantaged, and embraces humanitarian efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City of College Park includes families from countries around the world, representing many cultural traditions, religions, and languages; and

WHEREAS, the College Park City Council passed Resolution 16-R-04 on March 8, 2016, welcoming refugees to College Park; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, the United States has benefited from the significant contributions of immigrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees who have become scientists, inventors, and entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has always been a nation of immigrants, welcoming people seeking refuge from war, famine, terrorism, and other atrocities in every continent; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump signed a sweeping Executive Order on January 27, 2017 (January 27th Executive Order) that prohibits entry of any refugee awaiting re-settlement in the United States for 120 days, including refugees who had already received visas; and

WHEREAS, the January 27th Executive Order also bars citizens of seven majority Muslim countries – Iraq, Iran, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, and Yemen – from entering the United States for 90 days, including students and workers who had already received visas; and

WHEREAS, the January 27th Executive Order bars entry by all Syrian refugees into the United States for an indefinite period of time, including people who had already received visas; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families who hold visas, green cards, or dual citizenship have been detained, delayed, or refused entry to the United States since the January 27th Executive Order took effect; and

WHEREAS, even individuals who have aided the United States' armed forces in Afghanistan and Iraq have been denied expedient entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, the January 27th Executive Order has a disproportionate impact on Muslims; and
WHEREAS, the preference of one religion over another is contrary to the traditions, statutes, and the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the executive order is an affront to religious freedom — a principle so cherished by our nation’s founding fathers that it was included in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, religious, civic, and business leaders, including clergy of various faiths and denominations, leaders of many of America's largest companies, and elected officials belonging to both major political parties have publicly expressed strong opposition to the January 27th Executive Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park, that the City condemns this executive order as a discriminatory overreach that illegally targets immigrants based on their national origin and religion, and the City urges the President of the United States to immediately rescind this executive order.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of College Park and effective this 44th day of February 2017.

WITNESS:

Janeen S. Miller, CMC, City Clerk

CITY OF COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

Patrick L. Wojahn, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Suellen M. Ferguson, City Attorney