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**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE EXPEDITED
EMERGENCY PATHS TO WORK AUTHORIZATION FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS**

WHEREAS, The right to apply for asylum, a type of protection granted to migrants fleeing persecution or other harm in their home countries, is a fundamental part of U.S. immigration law and international law; and

WHEREAS, Asylum is a legal protection that gives migrants status to remain in the country if they are fleeing persecution or a reasonable fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group; in certain cases, asylum has been extended to victims of domestic violence where there is evidence that the legal systems in their home country will not protect them from future violence; and

WHEREAS, Under federal law, asylum seekers cannot legally work until they apply for and receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, To apply for an EAD, an asylum seeker must wait at least 180 days after they file their application for asylum, and they are not eligible to receive an EAD until that asylum application has been pending for at least 30 days; and

WHEREAS, In reality, because of the significant bureaucratic backlog, asylum seekers often wait for months on end without having applications processed, which can result in waiting for years without work authorization even though they have legal status to be in the country; and

WHEREAS, This process can be further delayed if the applicant needs to transfer a case to a new immigration office based on a change of address, needs to reschedule interviews, or is not able to find a competent interpreter for interviews – all of which are more likely when asylum seekers are sent to a different state and city from where their asylum claim was initially processed; and

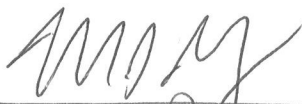
WHEREAS, While Congressional action is desperately needed to address our broken immigration system, the President of the United States can – and must – take immediate action to address the pressing humanitarian concerns and develop a policy to expedite work authorization for asylum seekers so that they may build safe, lawful, and stable lives while their immigration cases proceed; and

WHEREAS, As the City and our partners from not-for-profit and faith communities have been working to respond to this humanitarian crisis – work we are committed to continuing – we need to come together behind a nationwide strategy to empower asylum seekers to work and provide for themselves and their families while their asylum applications are pending and beyond; now, therefore


BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby call upon President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to: (i) designate, redesignate, or extend the designation of, as applicable, the following countries for Temporary Protected Status: Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Yemen; (ii) broaden access to humanitarian parole and expand the opportunities for eligible asylum seekers and parolees to obtain employment authorization, including by allowing parolees to reapply for parole as long as they are continuing to pursue humanitarian protection in the United States; and (iii) expand the capacity of U.S. Citizenship and

Immigration Services and other federal agencies to reduce application processing times, particularly in regards to prioritizing EAD processing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be sent to President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and the Illinois Congressional delegation.



Mike Rodriguez
Alderman
22nd Ward



SAMANTHA NUGENT
Alderman, 39th Ward