



**STEARNS COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Stearns County Administration Center  
St. Cloud, MN 56303

January 7, 2020 Meeting

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**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

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**DEPARTMENT:** Administration

**SUBMITTED BY:** Michael Williams

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**AGENDA ITEM:**

Executive Order Regarding the Refugee Resettlement Program

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**PREVIOUS ACTION:**

Local governments historically have had little say in refugee resettlement issues. The Board has, in the past, reviewed the County costs associated with the program.

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:**

Motion Directing the County Administrator to Write a Letter of Consent.

**MANDATED PROGRAM:** Non-Mandated

**COMMENTS:**

The Refugee Act has been in place since 1980. In September the President issued an Executive Order that requires affirmative action by each state's Governor and local governments (defined as counties) to allow refugees to be placed within the county. The five refugee resettlement agencies in Minnesota wrote a joint letter to the County requesting a letter of consent. The agencies desire consent before January 21, 2020, prior to submitting their Federal grant applications.

A letter from the chief executive officer of the County is required to provide consent. The Board can take action by directing me to write a letter of consent or take no action. A county that takes no action will be considered non-consenting. The Governor has provided consent on behalf of the state.

Melissa Huberty will provide a summary of the County's costs and responsibilities for the Refugee Resettlement program. The attached document has more information about the program. Rachele King, DHS State Refugee Coordinator will be available to answer any questions about the program.

**REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:**

Laptop

**LENGTH OF PRESENTATION:**

20 min