



August 23, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Kristjen Nielson
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016

Ben McAdams
Salt Lake County Mayor

Erin Litvack
Deputy Mayor, County Services

Rick Graham
Deputy Mayor, Operations

Karen Hale
Deputy Mayor, Community
& External Affairs

Darrin Casper
Deputy Mayor, Finance
& Administration

Dear Honorable Secretary Nielson:

Utah has demonstrated the economic and social benefits of being a welcoming state to refugees and New Americans. Not only have our residents been personally enriched by new friendships and cultures, Salt Lake County has been the beneficiary as our new residents have merged their skills and experiences with knowledge gained through entrepreneurial programs and training to open new businesses in our community.

One such business, a successful catering/food truck business called "Mother of All," was highlighted in a New York Times story last year ("A Sudanese Refugee Brings a Taste of Home to the U.S." Dec. 27, 2017). Kaltum Mohamed and her children, escaping the horrors of Darfur in 2003, living in Benghazi, then fleeing to a refugee camp in Egypt, were eventually resettled here in Salt Lake in 2013. The Spice Kitchen, an incubator kitchen and entrepreneurial program sponsored by the International Rescue Committee and Salt Lake County, provided the space, training and support Ms. Mohamed needed to get her Sudanese cuisine business off the ground.

In Salt Lake County, we have seen first-hand the welcoming spirit that is prevalent among Utahns. Recognizing that refugees bring with them unique backgrounds and experiences that infuse our culture and economy and make our community a more diverse, vibrant place, thousands of volunteers have stepped forward in Salt Lake County to support New Americans and provide opportunities for success.

Refugees are forced to flee their homes because they face persecution on account of their religion, ethnicity, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Our world is currently experiencing the largest displacement crisis in recorded history, with over 65 million people displaced globally, including over 22 million refugees. Resettlement offers a chance for less than 1% of the world's refugees to reach safety in a third country when no other options remain.

SCANNED/RECEIVED
BY EXEC SEC
2018 SEP 17 PM 2:40



Resettlement agencies, including the International Rescue Committee, Catholic Community Services and the Asian Association of Utah, have worked in Utah to help newcomers from around the world who have escaped life-threatening circumstances to begin building new lives for themselves and their families.

As you know, resettlement to the United States is available only for those who demonstrate the greatest and most immediate need for protection. Resettlement in the U.S. takes place after eligible refugees undergo rigorous selection, security vetting and medical screening processes. Upon arrival, resettlement organizations and community partners help refugees in Utah by providing them with the tools of self-reliance: housing; job placement and employment skills; English-language classes; and cultural orientation.

I am writing today to urge the White House to continue to resettle refugees like Ms. Mohamed and her family to our great country and honor the 45,000 admissions ceiling in 2019. Please find a way for our country to help those who are in need – and please help Salt Lake County experience the many benefits of welcoming refugees to our community.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben McAdams', is written over the text 'With appreciation,'.

Mayor Ben McAdams

Ben McAdams
Salt Lake County Mayor

Erin Litvack
Deputy Mayor, County Services

Rick Graham
Deputy Mayor, Operations

Karen Hale
Deputy Mayor, Community
& External Affairs

Darrin Casper
Deputy Mayor, Finance
& Administration



Ben McAdams
 Salt Lake County Mayor
 Salt Lake County Government Center
 2001 South State Street, Suite N2-100
 PO Box 144575
 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4575

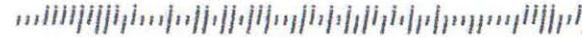
FIRST CLASS



U.S. POSTAGE >>> PITNEY BOWES
 ZIP 84116 \$ 000.47⁰
 02 1W
 0001403442 AUG 31 2018

The Honorable Secretary Kristjen Nielson
 Department of Homeland Security
 3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20016

5555891002



QC/#012

SEP 13 2018

CRDS SCREENED
 SEP 12 2018
 This was screened in a consolidated envelope

485
 ✓#075



JMS CRUS
 2018 SEP 12 AM 9:54



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

November 1, 2018

The Honorable Ben McAdams
Mayor of Salt Lake County
2001 South State Street, Suite N2-100
PO Box 144575
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4575

Dear Mayor McAdams:

Thank you for your August 23, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

As you express in your letter, the U.S. Refugee Admission Program (USRAP) has a long history of resettling refugees in the United States and reflects this country's highest values and aspirations of compassion, generosity, and leadership. It is important to note, however, that its support of refugees extends beyond the refugee admissions program. Our response encompasses a broad protection-based immigration structure including the asylum program and generous humanitarian assistance overseas.

On October 4, 2018, the President signed the Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 and set the refugee admissions ceiling at 30,000. The ceiling takes into account the operational realities associated with security measures to protect national security and public safety, as well as the need to conduct credible fear screenings of aliens seeking asylum at our borders and address the backlog of affirmative asylum cases, which stands at about 320,000 (approximately 492,000 individuals), the highest since 2002.

As you may be aware, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, together with the Department of State, law enforcement, and the intelligence community, has worked very hard in recent years to analyze the USRAP and introduce new measures to make the program more secure and enhance national security. The implementation of new security vetting procedures, while necessary, has lengthened processing times for some cases and slowed admissions in FY 2018. We anticipate that this is a temporary impact and that over time, as we and our vetting partners adjust to these changes and address resources constraints, the process will speed up.

We appreciate your comments regarding the positive contributions refugees have made to your community. Thank you again for your letter and your state's commitment to refugee resettlement. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LFC", written over a horizontal line.

L. Francis Cissna
Director