



Executive Committee  
Committee Room 1, City Hall  
100 Queen St. W  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

September 9, 2015

## Re: Syrian Refugee Crisis

For years we have witnessed the growing Syrian refugee crisis unfold. This crisis is not simply a Syrian or European issue, it is a humanitarian issue that requires all of us to open our homes and borders.

The photos and stories of the tragic events over the last few days have indeed shaken us all to our core. The tragedy is simply hard to comprehend. Our country and city has a history of opening our borders and homes as global citizens during times of crisis. It is now time for us to do so again.

The City of Toronto has a history of responding to refugee crises when they arise. After the 2004 Tsunami that devastated nations around the Indian Ocean, our City responded and created a program to directly support refugees connected to the disaster. Like we have in the past, in times like these, we must act.

Whether it is providing enhanced logistical support to NGO efforts to assist Syrian refugees, increased support for private sponsorships, or greater coordination of City programs (housing support, income assistance, employment supports, and others), we must come together and do all we can to assist during this crisis.

As such, I am submitting the following recommendation for consideration by Executive Committee:

***That Executive Committee request the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to report directly to September City Council on options for a City of Toronto Resettlement Program, including:***

- a. enhanced logistical support to the efforts of Lifeline Syria and other NGO efforts to assist Syrian refugees;***
- b. City actions to support private sponsorships;***



# Joe Cressy 周凱捷

City Councillor | Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina

***c. coordination of City programs that can assist (housing, income security, employment support, community agency services, etc.) and;  
d. any other ways in which the City of Toronto might support Syrian refugees.***

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Cressy'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joe Cressy  
City Councillor  
Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina