

EMMANUEL V. REMY

COUNCILMEMBER

T (614) 645-3560
EVRemy@columbus.gov



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Dear Housing Provider,

Our city is playing a vital role in providing shelter and welcome to Afghan evacuees who have come to the United States as part of Operation Allies Welcome. As of September 30, 2021 Columbus has started to welcome Afghan evacuees who have completed processing at the military bases as part of the Afghan Placement Assistance Program (APA), a newly established program by the U.S. Department of State.

We strongly encourage your consideration in renting to these newcomers and want to make you aware of the following information related to those who come through the APA program. All participants:

- Are lawfully in the United States in Humanitarian Parole Status and are work authorized
- Are fully vetted by US law enforcement entities and have received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine
- Have support of one of three resettlement agencies in Columbus, Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS), US Together, or Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS). These agencies also work to quickly place people into jobs through well-established workforce/self-sufficiency programs.

Columbus is currently committed to assisting approximately 520 people. We, like many other cities throughout the country, will need to come together to provide relief to address the extraordinary, unique humanitarian crisis and this is why Columbus City Council has established the Afghan Neighbors Rental Assistance Fund (ANRAF).

The city will offer the ANRAF as a last resort, as an assurance to you as the housing provider that rent obligations for the period of the lease are met. We anticipate that our new Afghan neighbors will be able to meet their rent obligations through employment, per capita funds allocated to them upon arrival, the resettlement agency emergency funds, private sources such as many faith-based and community groups who have offered support.

Please feel free to contact my Legislative Aide, Jeffrey Carter at JDCarter@columbus.gov with any questions and thank you for joining us in this extraordinary time of need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emmanuel V. Remy". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "E" and "R".

Emmanuel V. Remy, Member of Council

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CITY CLERK | ANDREA BLEVINS, CMC

City Hall | 90 West Broad Street | Second Floor | Columbus OH 43215 | T (614) 645.7380 | F (614) 645.6164 | columbuscitycouncil.org