

**RESOLUTION****A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA TO THE DEKALB COUNTY DELEGATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND STATE CODE BY ADDING “LEGALLY PERMITTED RESIDENTS” TO PEACE OFFICER CRITERIA AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Authority of DeKalb County requests that the DeKalb Delegation of the General Assembly support the amendment to the Georgia Code, § 35-8-8, to add “Legally Permitted Residents” to the criteria of Peace Officers in the State of Georgia; and,

**WHEREAS**, Georgia has a long history of welcoming immigrants and refugees, who have gone through proper U.S. entry procedures, to settle across the State, be provided opportunities to thrive within a community and to expand the local economy; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State of Georgia requires Peace Officer applicants to meet several standards for consideration, of those include the requirement of being a U.S Citizen however, the process to gain legal U.S. Citizenship can take upwards of five (5) years and,

**WHEREAS**, due to the fall of Afghanistan, many former Afghan security, police, and military officers have been left to relocate from their country, with those relocating to Georgia being unable to apply as Peace Officers and utilize their training and experience; and,

**WHEREAS**, allowing legally permitted residents to be able to apply as Georgia Peace Officers can provide an added opportunity for immigrants and refugees, with proper experience, to prosper as a productive member of the State of Georgia.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the governing authority of DeKalb County, Georgia that the following is requested:

1. The General Assembly amend the Georgia Code, § 35-8-8, to add “Legally Permitted Residents” to the criteria of those who can apply as Peace Officers in the State of Georgia; and,
2. The Executive Assistant or designee delivery a copy of this resolution to each member of the Georgia General Assembly representing a portion of DeKalb County.

**ADOPTED** by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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**STEPHEN R. BRADSHAW**  
 Presiding Officer  
 Board of Commissioners  
 DeKalb County, Georgia

12.15.21

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MICHAEL THURMOND**

Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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**BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC**

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

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**VIVIANE ERNSTES**

County Attorney