

**Lee, Chris**

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**From:** Jon Ward <jward628@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2025 2:48 AM  
**To:** Lee, Chris  
**Subject:** Statement in Support of 241394 Substitute resolution

Dear Finance & Personnel Committee members,

I write as a 4th generation resident of the City of Milwaukee, descended from immigrants who fled war in Europe in the 19th century. Founded in 2016 by volunteers, the Hanan Refugees Relief Group became our city's newest official refugee resettlement agency in July of 2023. Since that time, Hanan has resettled more than 500 refugees in the City of Milwaukee and surrounding communities. Our newest neighbors are some of the most vulnerable residents of our city. They depend on the support of Hanan to become thriving members of our community, quickly gaining employment and contributing to our city's economic development and/or studying to contribute even more in the future. Unfortunately, the U.S. government has ended all federal support for refugees, including for those who arrived as recently as January of this year with only their suitcases. These actions have created a crisis for many refugee families, who are left without the needed resources provided by Hanan, which has had to lay off some staff as a result. I fully support the Council providing critical support to refugees as they settle in our city, helping it to grow.

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