



CITY OF FAIRBANKS

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I write this letter of great importance in the hope that I can encourage Alaskans to support, aide, and welcome Ukrainians to our state who are seeking refuge and asylum, and who comply with necessary background checks to enter our country.

Over the last several months, we have watched in sadness as Russia's invasion into Ukraine has forced more than 11 million residents to flee their homes in hopes of finding safety. Our state has a large Eastern European community which includes many of Ukrainian descent. These individuals are integral members of our workforce, business, and faith-based sectors. We should all stand together solidarity by denouncing Russia's onslaught on the Ukrainian people and doing what we can to help those seeking safety.

The New Chance Inc. Ukraine Relief Program, based out of Anchorage, Alaska, is currently working to expedite passage of Ukrainian refugees to Alaska. This is an incredible undertaking and I applaud their efforts. I greatly appreciate those in the airline industry that are doing what they can to assist in the transport of Ukrainian refugees to Alaska from Europe. I would further like to encourage members of the hospitality, financial, and residential housing industries, as well as non-profit charities, to assist these efforts in any way possible.

Thank you to those who are already actively helping Ukrainians in dire need, and I will do what I can as Mayor to support them, as well.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jim Matherly
City of Fairbanks