



Office of Chancellor
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

Tom Lilly
600 Locust Street
Owensboro, KY 42301-2130
(270) 683-1545
tom.lilly@pastoral.org

October 8th, 2024

Honorable George Bray and City Commissioners
Mayor, City of Paducah
300 South 5th Street, PO Box 2267
Paducah, KY 42002

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

I am writing to provide some additional details for you to share on the presentation that was made to the Healthy Paducah Coalition on September 30th. First, our Director of Catholic Charities has a relationship with this Coalition, and the purpose of her presentation was to provide education and information on the refugee resettlement process, just as she has done in other communities throughout western Kentucky. I provided handouts with some web sites and more information for those who are interested in learning the facts about this process. Please continue to make my office number available for additional questions.

The refugee resettlement process is directed by the United States Refugee Admissions Program and works with major not for profit organizations to provide the resources necessary to adequately transition people who are deemed to be refugees; those of whom are determined to be particularly vulnerable and in need of protection. These refugees have been rigorously vetted and worked with the United States legal system for 10-25 years. Since the passage of the Refugee Act in 1980, the United States has had a history as a nation welcoming of immigrants, exemplifying a U.S. values-based foreign policy and a system that promotes safe, orderly, and humane lawful immigration. Resettled refugees are already in your community, but they were transitioned by other organizations or churches.

Here is what we know:

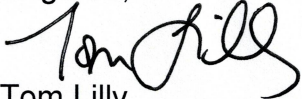
- In the discussions and ensuing Q&A from the above-referenced informational session, numbers and dates were discussed for Paducah IF, and I emphasize IF, Paducah met all the conditions for resettlement. These were discussions. No decisions have been made about resettling refugees in the Paducah community.
- There will be more public forums and presentations to groups and organizations on the benefits of this program when more specifics are available.
- Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Owensboro is a Resettlement Agency and operates from a strict set of policies and laws established by the State Department. We accepted this role because these vulnerable people of God are victims of war or oppression. Refugees are generally educated; hard-working residents and the data supports the fact they are not

burdens on a community. This data supports that this is a population that has economic benefits to a community.

- One of the conditions for accepting refugees will be how much support there is from local governing bodies. It is essential that there is sufficient support for these efforts from both the community's residents, and its leaders.

There is not a lot more information at this time. But we will pass along more information as we receive it. I assure you we will work with community leaders as you proceed through your decision-making process. My hope is that this authentic effort to be transparent with information will suffice until we receive more specific details.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Lilly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" being more prominent than the last name "Lilly".

Tom Lilly
Chancellor and Chief Administrative Officer