



A PROCLAMATION

On Behalf Of The People Of
THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE

By Her Honor The Mayor
Madeline Rogero

To Publicly Recognize

World Refugee Week

WHEREAS: Refugees are men, women and children from all parts of the world who are forced to flee their homelands because of wars, violence and fear of persecution or death due to race, religion, political opinion, or membership in a social group; and

WHEREAS: Since 2000, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has recognized June 20 as World Refugee Day to honor the sacrifices and contributions of refugees throughout the world; and

WHEREAS: More than 47,439 refugees have made their homes in the United States thus far in the 2017 fiscal year — joining more than 3 million refugees who have been resettled in the U.S. since 1975, many of whom are now U.S. citizens and thriving members of Knoxville's communities; and

WHEREAS: World Refugee Week recognizes that refugees are “ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances,” people with loved ones and stories, careers, worries, joys, sorrows and dreams. We honor each person and the journey that lead them here; and

WHEREAS: Bridge Refugee Services, Inc., in partnership with welcoming communities and local partners, works tirelessly to assist newly arrived refugees with English language training, job placement services, self-sufficiency skills, and connections to different resources; and

WHEREAS: The people of Knoxville—one of Tennessee's most multicultural cities—have welcomed refugees since 1982 and continue to do so and make resources available to them and their families so they can have a dignified life in a safe and free environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Madeline Rogero, Mayor of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee,
do hereby proclaim June 17 - 25, 2017, to be:

World Refugee Week

in our city and urge all citizens to join in this observance.

Given under my hand and affixed with the
Seal of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee,
This Seventeenth Day of June, 2017

Madeline Rogero
Mayor

