

Borough of Lansdowne  
12 East Baltimore Avenue  
Lansdowne, PA 19050

## Resolution 2021-09

### Resolution Honoring Cambodian Heritage Week

*Whereas*, the Cambodian people have a long and rich cultural heritage symbolized by the temple city Angkor Wat, considered one of the Wonders of the Ancient World, built between the 9th and 12th centuries, stands as a living icon of the endurance and genius of all Cambodians throughout the world; and

*Whereas*, the relationship between the United States and Cambodia had been forged through educational and professional exchange, and therefore in 1975, with the impending overthrow of the government by the totalitarian Khmer Rouge regime, the United States accepted over 4,000 Cambodian evacuees to ensure their safety; and

*Whereas*, beginning in April 1975 and ending in January 1979 at least 1,700,000 to 3,000,000 people were deliberately and systematically killed in Cambodia in one of the worst human tragedies of the modern era;

*Whereas* in 1975, Pol Pot led the Communist guerrilla group, the Khmer Rouge, in a large-scale insurgency in Cambodia that resulted in the removal of Cambodians from their homes and into labor camps in an attempt to restructure Khmer society;

*Whereas* traditional Khmer culture and society were systematically destroyed, including the destruction of temples, schools, hospitals, and other buildings;

*Whereas* Cambodian refugees have done much to further successful resettlement in the United States, including through mutual assistance associations organized by previously resettled Southeast Asian refugees to help new refugees through the provision of essential social, psychological, cultural, educational, and economic services; and

*Whereas* while remembering and honoring both their traditional culture and their traumatic past, the new generation of Cambodian Americans is contributing to American society in meaningful ways:

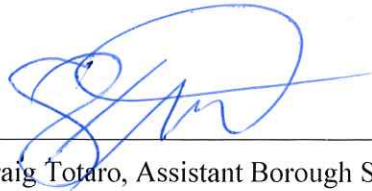
*Whereas*, Philadelphia has the fourth largest Cambodian population among U.S. cities. According to 2010 census estimates, roughly 10,000 Cambodians lived in Philadelphia.

*Whereas*, the Khmer culture of Cambodia thrives in the Philadelphia and Greater Lansdowne community and the Cambodian New Year is celebrated from April 14 to April 16th;

*Now, therefore, be it Resolved* by the Borough Council of Lansdowne, that Lansdowne Borough recognizes the contributions of Cambodian Americans to the culture of Lansdowne. And, during the week of April 12-April 16, Lansdowne Borough honors the victims of the genocide in Cambodia that took place beginning in April 1975 and ending in January 1979; and is committed to honor the historical and contemporary contributions to the world, the United States, and to Lansdowne.

*Adopted* by the Borough of Lansdowne, County of Delaware Pennsylvania, this 7th day of April, 2021.

ATTEST:

  
Craig Totaro, Assistant Borough Secretary

  
Benjamin D. Hover, Council President