

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND U.S. CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO DENOUNCE THE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT JUAN JOSE ORLANDO HERNANDEZ FOR OPERATING AS A NARCO-STATE AND FOR CORRUPTION; URGING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO DISCONTINUE MILITARY FOREIGN AID TO HONDURAS; AND FURTHER URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO HOLD OVERSIGHT HEARINGS TO HOLD PRESIDENT HERNANDEZ ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS ACTIONS.

WHEREAS, Juan Jose Orlando Hernández Alvarado ("President Hernández") is the current president of Honduras, who assumed office on January 27, 2014, after winning the 2013 Honduran general election; and

WHEREAS, President Hernández began his second presidential term on January 27, 2018 after he was re-elected in a fraud-marred vote in 2017, using a contentious 2016 supreme court ruling to justify his bid for a second term in power, despite the constitution prohibiting re-election of sitting or former leaders; and

WHEREAS, despite objections from the European Union, the Organization of American States and dozens of American lawmakers, and push for recount, the Trump Administration congratulated Mr. Hernández on his disputed reelection and recognized his legitimacy as president of Honduras; and

WHEREAS, the fraud-marred election resulted in civil unrest, during which 30 demonstrators were killed and more than 800 arrested many of which, according to the United Nations and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, were transferred to military installations, where they were brutally beaten, insulted, and sometimes tortured; and

WHEREAS, at the end of May 2019, President Hernández was identified as a co-conspirator in a drug trafficking and money laundering case against his brother, Antonio "Tony" Hernandez, according to document filed in U.S. district court; and

WHEREAS, the 49-page document summarized some of the key evidence collected by prosecutors against the defendant, who they accuse of being a "violent, multi-ton drug trafficker" who allegedly abused his political connections for personal and political gain and at least twice "helped arrange murders of drug trafficking rivals"; and

WHEREAS, it further revealed that Mr. Hernández accepted approximately \$1.5 million cocaine profits for his 2013 campaign, including a \$1,000,000 bribe from the infamous Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, and alleged that the Honduran government essentially functions as a narco-state; and

WHEREAS, nationwide demonstrations against President Hernández's corrupt practices, and attempts to privatize education and health care have trailed the president since April 2019, to which the army has responded with tear gas and live fire to disperse dissenters; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission of Miami Beach believe that the U.S. government must send a strong message that United States does not stand for drug corruption and authoritarianism in Honduras and Central America; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government has already done so by imposing a full economic embargo on the Venezuelan government of President Nicolás Maduro in August of 2019; and

WHEREAS, four major principal reasons to justify the imposition of harsh economic sanctions against Venezuelan government were: drug trafficking, violation of democratic norms, violation of human rights and widespread corruption; and

WHEREAS, all four principal reasons could well be cited to justify measures against Honduran government of President Hernández just as well; and

WHEREAS, as such, the Mayor and City Commission urge President Trump and U.S. congressional leaders to publicly denounce the current Honduran Administration as one of narco-state; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, set a precedent on a visit to Honduras in August when she declined an invitation to meet with President Hernández; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission further urge the Trump Administration to reduce U.S. foreign military aid to Honduras in its entirety but continue providing economic and humanitarian aid to Honduras in order to support programs that are advancing U.S. and Honduran joint efforts to mitigate illegal immigration from Honduras to U.S. borders; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, the U.S. Congress should hold oversight hearings that shine light on President Hernández's bad behavior and hold President Hernández accountable for corruption; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby urge the Trump Administration and U.S. Congressional leaders to denounce the Honduran government of President Juan Jose Orlando Hernandez for operating as a narco-state and for corruption; urging the Trump Administration to discontinue military foreign aid to Honduras; and further urging the U.S. Congress to hold oversight hearings to hold President Hernández accountable for his actions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2019.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Michael Gongora)

**APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION**

[Signature]

City Attorney

12-2-19

Date