

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE MOTION BY THE HISPANIC AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF CUBA FOR BRAVELY ASSERTING THEIR UNIVERSAL RIGHT TO FREEDOM AND JUSTICE, AND URGING PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO CONDEMN THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE PROTESTS AND SUPPORT THE CUBAN PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND BASIC NEEDS BY ALL MEANS, INCLUDING BY PUBLICLY DENOUNCING THE CUBAN DICTATORSHIP FOR ITS VIOLENCE AGAINST THE CUBAN PEOPLE; BY USING ALL AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE INTERNET ACCESS FOR THE PEOPLE OF CUBA; BY PROVIDING THE CUBAN PEOPLE WITH DIRECT HUMANITARIAN AID, INCLUDING FOOD AND MEDICINE, THROUGH RELIABLE THIRD-PARTY HUMANITARIAN AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS; BY OFFERING TO SEND DIRECT MEDICAL CARE TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE THROUGH ALL MEANS INCLUDING SENDING THE U.S. NAVY HOSPITAL SHIP "USNS COMFORT" TO CUBA TO PROVIDE ON-SITE CARE; BY COORDINATING AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT FOR HUMANITARIAN AID AND SUPPORT TOWARD A DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION; AND BY AGGRESSIVE DIPLOMATIC INTERVENTION; FURTHER, DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WHEREAS, Miami Beach has a large number of Cuban residents and other individuals whose families have fled from Communist regimes and repression; and

WHEREAS, at the special meeting on July 15, 2021, the City of Miami Beach Hispanic Affairs Advisory Committee passed a motion urging the City of Miami Beach to declare support and solidarity with the people of Cuba rising up against the authoritarian Communist regime, and further, urge humanitarian and diplomatic intervention by the U.S. government for a peaceful change in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, for over 60 years, the Cuban people have suffered under a Communist and military dictatorship that has systematically denied the Cuban people their most fundamental freedoms; and

WHEREAS, unbearable living conditions of the Cuban people are not a result of the U.S. sanctions, but of the authoritarian Communist regime inflicting economic misery

on its own people, denying them basic social rights, and curtailing freedom of speech by assaulting and arresting activists protesting against the Communist regime; and

WHEREAS, since July 11, despite serious risks to personal health and safety, thousands of Cubans bravely took to the streets across the island nation to protest chronic shortages of basic goods, food, and medicines, longstanding restrictions on civil liberties and the government's poor handling of a worsening COVID-19 pandemic, marking the most significant unrest in decades; and

WHEREAS, the rare wave of demonstrations against Cuba's communist government has been fomented by a deepening economic crisis worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has devastated the country's tourism industry and sent Cuba's economy into a deep slump, causing food shortages and hunger, as well the collapse of medical systems as already-scarce resources are stretched to the brink; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic starkly laid bare the failures and fault lines of the Cuban Communist regime, as they can no longer blame the food and medicine shortages on the U.S. sanctions¹; and

WHEREAS, the widespread protests are not only sounding the alarm regarding the dire situation affecting the Cuban people, but also calling—on a scale never seen before—for freedom and for an end to the oppressive Communist regime that has tyrannized the Cuban people for more than half a century; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban Communist regime responded to the protests by stifling freedom of expression and violently attacking, arresting, and imprisoning peaceful protestors and critics of the government; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the protests, anti-Cuban communist regime activists say that more than 100 people have been detained or are missing in a crackdown described as the largest in years; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Cuban Communist regime continues to try and repress communications and pleas for help from the Cuban people, with The Associated Press reporting that authorities have blocked access to social media sites and messaging platforms in an apparent effort to stop the flow of information into, out of, and within Cuba; and

WHEREAS, access to the Internet is vital, as it allows the Cuban people to communicate with one another and their loved ones abroad, and for the world to see what is happening on the ground as the Cuban people rise in support of freedom; and

¹ In 2000, the embargo was relaxed by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act, where U.S. Congress lifted unilateral sanctions on commercial sales of food, agricultural commodities, medicine, and medical products to Cuba.

WHEREAS, technology exists to provide Internet access into Cuba remotely, using the innovation of American enterprise and the diverse industries here, similar to American efforts to broadcast radio into the Soviet Union during the Cold War in Europe; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission of Miami Beach wholeheartedly support all efforts to bring about democratic reform in Cuba, and stand in solidarity with the Cuban people and their call for “Patria Y Vida” for Cuba in this historic moment of change; and

WHEREAS, City of Miami Beach urge President Joseph Biden and the U.S. Government to condemn the Cuban government’s handling of the protests, and support the Cuban people as they struggle for and demand basic freedoms and human needs, including food, and access to life-saving healthcare inclusive of vaccines for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), by all means, including, but not limited to:

- By continuing to publicly denounce the Cuban dictatorship for its violence and repression directed against the Cuban people;
- By using all available technology to allow for the free flow of information in and out of Cuba including providing unrestricted internet access to the fullest extent possible throughout the island;
- By providing direct humanitarian aid, including food and medicine, that will be delivered directly to the Cuban people through reliable third-party humanitarian and religious organizations;
- By offering to send direct medical care to the Cuban people through all means including sending the U.S. Navy hospital ship “USNS Comfort” to Cuba to provide on-site care, including delivery of vaccines directly to Cuban citizens;
- By coordinating an international effort for humanitarian aid and support toward a democratic transition; and
- Through aggressive diplomatic intervention, including assembling and leading an international coalition of Nations to stand against the dictators of Cuba and with and for the Cuban people.

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 accept the motion by the Hispanic Affairs Advisory Committee, and declare support for the people of Cuba for bravely asserting their universal right to freedom and justice, and urge President Joseph Biden and the U.S. Government to condemn the Cuban government’s handling of the protests and support the Cuban people in their struggle for freedom and basic needs by all means, including by publicly denouncing the Cuban dictatorship for its violence against the Cuban people; by using all available technology to provide Internet access for the people of Cuba; by providing the Cuban people with direct humanitarian aid, including food and medicine, through reliable third-party humanitarian and religious organizations; by offering to send direct medical care to the Cuban people through all means including sending the U.S. Navy hospital ship “USNS Comfort” to Cuba to provide on-site care; by coordinating an international effort for humanitarian aid and support toward a democratic transition; and by aggressive

diplomatic intervention; further, direct the City Clerk to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, to the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, and the Secretary of the United States Department of State.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this _____ day of _____, 2021.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored Mayor Dan Gelber and Commissioner Michael Gongora
co-sponsored by Vice Mayor Ricky Arriola, Commissioner Micky Steinberg, and
Commissioner Mark Samuelian)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney


7-27-21
Date