

RESOLUTION NO. 24 - 2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, PROVIDING SUPPORT TO CONGRESSMAN MARIO DIAZ-BALART'S BIPARTISAN RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING EDMUNDO GONZALEZ AS PRESIDENT ELECT OF VENEZUELA; CALLING ON PRESIDENT BIDEN AND CONGRESS TO DEMAND THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CLERK; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (FERNANDEZ)

WHEREAS, since Nicolas Maduro's assumption as president of Venezuela in 2013, following the death of Hugo Chavez, his autocratic rule has crippled the Venezuelan economy and silenced all forms of political dissent; and

WHEREAS, during the past decade, Nicolas Maduro has ruled with an iron fist, persecuting political opponents by subjecting them to arbitrary detentions, torture and extrajudicial murder; and

WHEREAS, Nicolas Maduro's despotic policies have forced millions of Venezuelans to flee their homeland in search of economic and political freedoms; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2024, after more than a decade of violent repression, more than a million Venezuelan's turned out to vote in the Venezuelan Presidential Elections; and

WHEREAS, prior to the election, Nicolas Maduro banned opposition leaders Maria Corina Machado, and Corina Yoris; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of Town of Miami Lakes (the "Town") residents are immigrants from Venezuela, many who suffered from Maduro's tyrannical regime; and

WHEREAS, Nicolas Maduro stated prior to the election that he had no intention of accepting defeat or providing for a peaceful transition of power; and

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WHEREAS, the Maduro regime currently holds more than two hundred and seventy (270) political prisoners and has conducted over fifteen thousand (15,000) politically motivated arrests throughout the past decade; and

WHEREAS, despite these torrid conditions, rendering the elections neither free nor fair, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia stepped forward to represent the opposition in the election for President; and

WHEREAS, according to independent observers, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia received an overwhelming seven million, one hundred nineteen thousand, seven hundred and sixty-eight votes, or 67% of the total over Nicolas Maduro, who obtained only three million, two hundred twenty-five thousand, eight hundred nineteen votes or 30% of the total; and

WHEREAS, the Maduro regime has issued arrest warrants for Maria Corina Machado and Edmundo Gonzalez on false criminal charges; and

WHEREAS, the Maduro regime attempts to steal the July 2024 elections and silence the democratic will and desire of the Venezuelan people; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Mario Diaz Balart, accompanied by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Shultz, have introduced a bi-partisan Congressional Resolution denouncing Maduro's actions and recognizing Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia as the President-Elect of Venezuela, a copy of the Congressional Resolution is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated into this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Miami Lakes announces its adoption and support of Congressman Diaz-Balart's, bi-partisan Congressional Resolution and calls on the U.S. Government to demand that the Maduro regime immediately release all political prisoners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are confirmed, adopted, and incorporated herein and made part hereof by this reference.

Section 2. Adoption of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and Congresswoman Wasserman-Shultz, Bi-Partisan Congressional Resolution Recognizing Edmundo Gonzalez as Venezuela’s President Elect. The Town Council formally adopts and provide their support to Mario Diaz-Balart and Congresswoman Wasserman-Shultz, Bi-Partisan Congressional Resolution Recognizing Edmundo Gonzalez as Venezuela’s lawful President Elect as enclosed herein as Exhibit “A.”

Section 3. Urging President Joseph R. Biden and U.S. Congress to demand the release of Political Prisoners. The Town Council of Miami Lakes urge President Biden and U.S. Congress to demand and take all actions necessary to seek the release of all Venezuelan political prisoners.

Section 4. Instructions to the Town Clerk, The Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to President Joseph R. Biden, Congressman Mario Diaz Balart, and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Shultz.

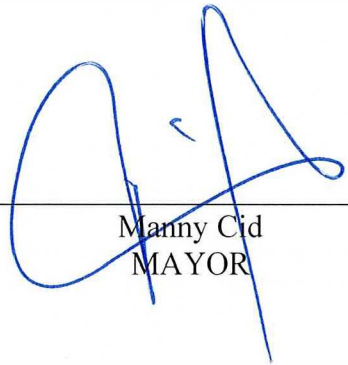
Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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Passed and adopted this 13th day of August 2024.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Vice Mayor Fernandez who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruano and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Manny Cid	Yes
Vice Mayor Tony Fernandez	Yes
Councilmember Luis E. Collazo	Yes
Councilmember Josh Dieguez	Absent
Councilmember Ray Garcia	Yes
Councilmember Bryan Morera	Yes
Councilmember Marilyn Ruano	Yes



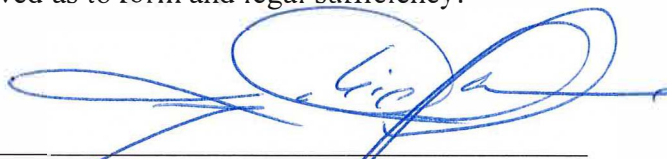
Manny Cid
MAYOR

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo
TOWN CLERK

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:



Raul Gastesi, Esq.
Gastesi, Lopez and Mestre, PLLC
TOWN ATTORNEY