**RESOLUTION NO. 13-27**

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA URGING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER AND COUNTY MAYOR TO OPPOSE CONTRACTING THE "AIRPORT CITY" PROJECT TO ANY COMPANY THAT PROFITEERS AND ENGAGES IN BUSINESS WITH THE CUBAN OR SYRIAN GOVERNMENT, AT THE EXPENSE OF FREEDOMS OF THE CITIZENS OF THOSE NATIONS.

**WHEREAS,** Cuba is a totalitarian police state which relies on brutally repressive methods to maintain control including torture, prolonged incarceration and murder of its citizens as well as intense physical and electronic surveillance of both Cuban nationals and foreign visitors; and

**WHEREAS,** Syria is a barbaric regime that harasses and imprisons human rights activists and other critics of the government including savagely slaughtering its own people to maintain power; and

**WHEREAS,** both Cuba and Syria are considered by the United States Department of State as state sponsors of terrorism; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 959 as enrolled and signed by Florida Governor Rick Scott in 2012 is an expression of the legislative intent and will of the State of Florida, to not do business with companies that are engaged in business operations and that foster economic activities with state sponsors of terrorism such as Cuba and Syria; and

**WHEREAS,** Miami-Dade County voters affirmed the intent and spirit of HB 959 during the November 6, 2012 General Election by passing the non-binding county referendum by a supermajority margin of 62.42% in favor to 37.58% against; and

**WHEREAS,** Odebrecht International, a Brazilian company, is currently one of the Cuban military's largest business partners, in gross disregard to the repression of the Cuban people; and

**WHEREAS,** Odebrecht International has been given concessions by Cuba's military dictatorship over the critical Port of Mariel and the nationalized sugar industry; and

**WHEREAS,** Odebrecht International has expressed no desire to end its business relationship with Cuba's brutal military; and

**WHEREAS,** Odebrecht International, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Odebrecht Construction, Inc., in defiance of the clear public will and intent of the Florida Legislature and supermajority of voters in Miami-Dade County, filed a lawsuit to enjoin implementation of HB 959, which injunction is currently on appeal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, THAT:

**Section 1:** The foregoing facts and recitations contained in the preamble to this resolution are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

**Section 2:** The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Hialeah, Florida urge the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners and the County Mayor to oppose contracting the "Airport City Project" to any company that profiteers and engages in business with the Cuban or Syrian Government at the expense of the freedoms of the citizens of those nations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 26 day of March, 2013.

Isis Garcia-Martinez
Council President

Attest:

Approved on this 26th day of March, 2013.

Marbelys Fatjo, Acting City Clerk

Mayor Carlos Hernandez

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

William M. Grodnick, City Attorney

Resolution was adopted by a 5-0 vote with Council Members, Garcia-Martinez, Casals-Munoz, Cue-Fuente, Hernandez and Lozano voting "Yes", Council Members Caragol and Gonzalez absent.