

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-042

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, IN STRONG SUPPORT OF U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL 2161 ENTITLED THE VENEZUELAN REFUGEE ASSISTANCE ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ADJUSTMENT IN IMMIGRATION STATUS TO PERMANENT RESIDENT OF QUALIFYING VENEZUELAN NATIONALS.

WHEREAS, Since the election of Hugo Chavez as president of Venezuela, and presently under the leadership of Nicolas Maduro, the political climate in Venezuela has grown increasingly dictatorial at the expense of personal freedom; and

WHEREAS, recent news stories from Venezuela tell of the declining living conditions, civil unrest, censorship, and lack of human rights and decency, that threaten the life and welfare of all Venezuelans; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the tyranny to which Venezuelans are subjected, thousands have been forced to flee their homeland to preserve their life, and in search of liberty and democracy; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Venezuela is the leading country in asylum requests to the United States; and

WHEREAS, until such time as democracy, peace and tranquility are restored in Venezuela, qualified asylum seekers should be offered the opportunity to obtain permanent residency in the United States; and

WHEREAS, U.S. House of Representatives Bill 2161 was introduced on April 26, 2017 by U.S. Representative Carlos Curbelo and co-sponsored by U.S. Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Darren Soto and Debbie Wasserman Schultz for consideration by the 115th Congress; and

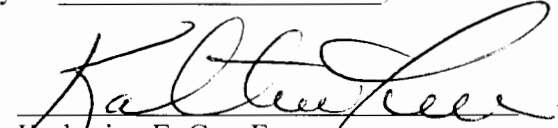
WHEREAS, the bill proposes to allow Venezuelan nationals, who arrived in the United States prior to January 1, 2013, who do not have a criminal record, have not been involved in the persecution of others and otherwise qualify under the law, to adjust their immigration status to permanent resident.

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

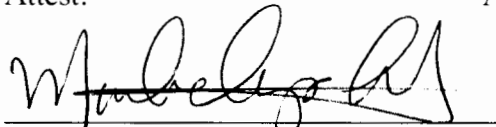
Section 1: The foregoing facts and recitations contained in the preamble to this resolution are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2: The Mayor and the City Council strongly support U.S. H.R. Bill 2161 entitled the Venezuelan Refugee Assistance Act providing for the adjustment in immigration status of qualifying Venezuelan nationals and urges the U.S. Congress to pass H.R. 2161.

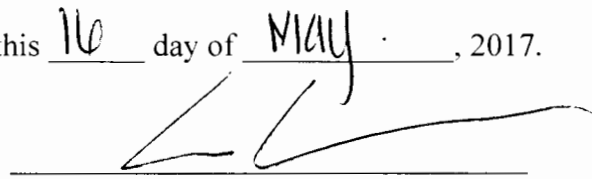
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9 day of May, 2017.


Katharine E. Cue-Fuente
Council Vice President

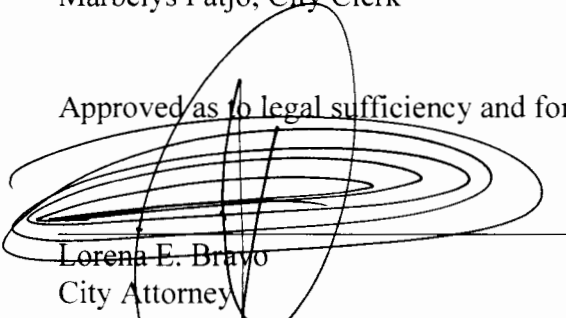
Attest:


Marbelys Fatjo, City Clerk

Approved on this 16 day of MAY, 2017.


Mayor Carlos Hernandez

Approved as to legal sufficiency and form:


Lorena E. Bravo
City Attorney

Resolution was adopted by a (5-0-2) vote with Councilmembers, Caragol, Hernandez, Cue-Fuente, Lozano and Casáls-Muñoz voting "Yes". Council President Gonzalez and Councilmember Garcia-Martinez absent.