

RESOLUTION NO. 210546

Resolution of the City of Gainesville, Florida, supporting and uniting in solidarity with the Cuban people's right to receive humanitarian aid, democracy, freedom of speech and assembly, and requesting that the United States government join and support the Cuban people's right to receive humanitarian aid, democracy, freedom of speech and assembly; providing instructions for the City Clerk; and providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, Cuba's communist dictatorship has wrought 62 years of oppression, starvation, social disruption, and economic instability on the island nation ever since the 1959 revolution; and

WHEREAS, Cuba's already existing humanitarian crisis, resulting from the brutality of its Communist regime, has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and for which the government has refused humanitarian aid from foreign governments and organizations, adding thousands upon thousands to the list of the victims; and

WHEREAS, Cuba has continued to report thousands of new COVID-19 cases every day without providing adequate support for its people; and

WHEREAS, Cuba's healthcare system has been overwhelmed to the point of collapse, as most medical supplies and medicines have run out, and food has become increasingly scarce; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Cuban government's oppression, beginning on July 11, 2021, the Cuban people have risen up against the communist regime by taking to the streets to demand freedom in a manner not seen before; and

WHEREAS, The Cuban government has responded in tyrannical fashion by continuing to arrest those who oppose it, fire live rounds at unarmed protesters, shut down internet and mobile communication among the public, and shut down electricity, thereby worsening living conditions in the country; and

WHEREAS, Cuban Americans stood in solidarity with Cubans on the island by protesting in cities across the United States, educating people on the Cuban crisis and demanding the United States assist the Cuban people; and

WHEREAS, The University of Florida and the City of Gainesville is composed of a significant population of Cuban-American students and those of Cuban descent, and produced thousands of alumni with Cuban heritage; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville seeks to express solidarity with the Cuban people in their hour of need; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City Commission of the City of Gainesville to encourage other municipalities in Alachua County and the State of Florida to express solidarity with the Cuban people in their struggle for freedom; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Gainesville hopes that by doing so there will be a stronger response from the federal government of the United States to bring the full weight of its influence to a humanitarian crisis that sits only 90 miles away from the Florida border; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville urges our federal elected officials and other key federal officials to exercise the federal government's power and influence such that it provides support to the democratic movement in Cuba that is currently unfolding through all diplomatic, political, and economic means available to it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GAINESVILLE CITY COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The foregoing Recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Expression of Support and Call to Action. The City Commission of Gainesville, Florida unites in support and solidarity with the Cuban people's fight for humanitarian aid, democratic governance, freedom of speech, assembly, religion, and press and further requests the United States government to use the full weight of its power and influence to provide support to the democratic movement in Cuba that is currently unfolding through all diplomatic, political, and economic means available to it. Further, the City Commission of Gainesville, Florida strongly urges all municipalities in Alachua County to pass a resolution in support of the Cuban people.

Section 3. Instructions to the Clerk The City Clerk is hereby instructed that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the Cuban Ambassador to the United States, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott, Congresswoman Kat Cammack, University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs, the Florida

League of Cities for distribution to its members, and to the Clerk of each municipality in Alachua County for distribution to their elected officials.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of November 2021.

Lauren Poe
Mayor

ATTEST:

Omichele Gainey, City Clerk