

RESOLUTION No. 24 -

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, PROVIDING SUPPORT TO CONGRESSMAN MARIO DIAZ-BALART'S AND SENATOR MARCO RUBIO'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

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, the City of Doral (the "City") is home to the largest population of Venezuelan immigrants in the United States; 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, Nicolas Maduro stated prior to the election that he had no intention of accepting defeat or providing for a peaceful transition of power; and

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, Senator Marco Rubio, accompanied by Senator Rick Scott and Dick Durbin 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 Senate Resolution is attached hereto as Exhibit “B” and incorporated into this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Doral 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 MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL 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 Mayor and City Council of Doral adopt and provide their support to Mario Diaz-Balart and Congresswoman Wasserman-Shultz, Bi-Partisan Congressional Resolution and Marco Rubio, Rick Scott, and Dick Durbin’s Bi-Partisan Senatorial Resolution Recognizing Edmundo Gonzalez as Venezuela’s lawful President Elect as enclosed herein as Exhibit “A” and “B.”

Section 3. Urging President Joseph R. Biden and U.S. Congress to demand the release of Political Prisoners. The Mayor and City Council of Doral 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 City Clerk. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to President Joseph R. Biden, Congressman Mario Diaz Balart, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Shultz, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott, and Senator Dick Durbin.

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

The foregoing Resolution was offered by _____ who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Christi Fraga	_____
Vice Mayor Oscar Puig-Corve	_____
Councilwoman Digna Cabral	_____
Councilman Rafael Pineyro	_____
Councilwoman Maureen Porras	_____

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14 day of August, 2024.

CHRISTI FRAGA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CONNIE DIAZ, MMC
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF DORAL ONLY:

LORENZO COBIELLA
GASTESI, LOPEZ & MESTRE, PLLC
CITY ATTORNEY