



# Memorandum

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**Date:** August 14, 2024

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

**From:** Councilman Rafael Pineyro

**Subject:** Resolution in Support of Congressman Mario Diaz Balart, and Senator Marco Rubio's Bi-Partisan Resolution Recognizing Edmundo Gonzalez as the President Elect of Venezuela and Seeking action by the U.S. Government to Demand the Release of Venezuelan Political Prisoners

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## **Introduction**

For over 10 years, Venezuelans have suffered political oppression, torture, and even extra-judicial murder for voicing their political dissent and dissatisfaction with Nicolas Maduro's autocratic and despotic regime. On July 28, 2024, Venezuelans had an opportunity to turn out and vote for a new leader, and they did. Overwhelmingly, the numbers reflect that Edmundo Gonzalez won the July 28, 2024 election. However, Nicolas Maduro has refused to accept the results and relinquish control.

Since then, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and Senator Marco Rubio, with bi-partisan support, have submitted congressional resolutions, in the house and senate, recognizing Edmundo Gonzalez as the legitimate president elect of Venezuela and condemning the actions of Nicolas Maduro.

The City of Doral is home to the largest population of Venezuelans. Many of who have faced the terror of Maduro's regime. It is only fitting that the City of Doral formally adopt and support both congressional resolutions, and urge the Biden Administration as well as Congress to demand the release of political prisoners in Venezuela.

**Fiscal Impact** There is no fiscal impact on this item.

## **Recommendation**

I respectfully request Mayor and Council approval of the item.