

RESOLUTION No. 22-201

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, URGING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO EXTEND TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (“TPS”) DESIGNATION FOR HONDURAS, AND TO DECLARE A NEW INITIAL TPS DESIGNATION DATE FOR HONDURAS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, on January 5, 1999, Honduras was granted Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) as a result of the devastation caused to Honduras by Hurricane Mitch, which killed over 10,000 people, destroyed thousands of homes, and caused over \$5 billion in damage; and

WHEREAS, Honduran Nationals eligible for TPS protection must have been present in the United States as of January 5, 1999 ; and

WHEREAS, the TPS designation for Honduras had been subsequently extended on numerous occasions until 2017 when the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) announced its decision to terminate the TPS designation for Honduras, effective January 5, 2022, following an 18-month transition period; and

WHEREAS, due to series of legal challenges, the TPS designation for Honduras was not terminated on January 5, 2022, and, most recently, on September 10, 2021, DHS announced that the TPS designation for Honduras was extended through December 31, 2022, because of the legal challenges.

WHEREAS, in the time since the initial announcement that the TPS designation for Honduras would be terminated, the situation in Honduras has deteriorated; the country has suffered devastating effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, and, in November 2022, two Category 4 Hurricanes, Eta and Lota ravaged Honduras less than two weeks apart destroying roads, homes, hospitals, schools, and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the devastation caused by Hurricanes Eta and Lota – loss of 80% of the agriculture sector and over \$1.86 billion in damages in the midst of a pandemic, as well as Honduras' designation as the third poorest country in North America – is on the scale to justify an independent designation of TPS for Honduras as the country struggles to recover; and

WHEREAS, the approximately 57,000 Hondurans who currently have TPS, have been in the United States since at least January of 1999, and have strong community ties, including U.S.-born children who should not have to choose between their parents and their birthright as Americans; and

WHEREAS, according to the Central bank of Honduras, 22% percent of the Gross Domestic Product (“GDP”) of Honduras comes from remittances from TPS recipients and others, totaling more than \$5.7 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, Honduras will be unable to safely receive or assimilate 57,000 or more Hondurans or to replace their remittances, which help sustain its economy, rendering deportations of Hondurans with TPS both unsafe and destabilizing; and

WHEREAS, Honduras currently meets all of the requirements for an initial designation of a foreign state under the TPS program – the environmental disasters of Hurricane Eta, Hurricane Lora, and the COVID-19 pandemic have caused a substantial disruption of the living conditions in Honduras, Honduras is currently unable to adequately handle the return of its nationals, and Honduran Minister of Foreign Affairs Lisandro rales officially requested designation of Honduras under the TPS statute on December 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Doral has a significant population of Hispanics, as well as many Hispanic organizations and business; and

WHEREAS, several local governments in South Florida have adopted a similar resolutions “Urging the Biden Administration to Extend TPS Designation for Honduras and to Declare a New Initial TPS Designation Date for Honduras; and Providing for Severability and an Effective Date.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are confirmed, adopted, and incorporated herein and made part hereof by this reference.

Section 2. Approval. The Mayor and City Council hereby and support the initiative of this program and hereby urges President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to instruct DHS to adopt a new TPS designation date for Honduras and to extend TPS designation for Honduras beyond its current December 31, 2022, expiration date.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Vice Mayor Cabral who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Puig-Corve and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez	Yes
Vice Mayor Digna Cabral	Yes
Councilman Pete Cabrera	Yes
Councilwoman Claudia Mariaca	Yes
Councilman Oscar Puig-Corve	Yes

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 26 day of October, 2022.



JUAN CARLOS BERMUDEZ, 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:



LUIS FIGUEREDO, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY