

RESOLUTION No. 13-35

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL URGING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND THE 113th CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FIVE PRINCIPLES EMBRACED BY THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A NEW AMERICAN ECONOMY; AND URGING THE PASSAGE OF THE VENEZUELAN LIBERTY ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Doral (the "City") recognizes that there are currently an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, recent polls indicate that a majority of Americans favor comprehensive immigration reform, including a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants living and working in the United States; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade both President George W. Bush, a Republican, and President Barack Obama, a Democrat, have supported the passage of comprehensive immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill was approved by the U.S. Senate by a vote of 62-36, but thereafter died in the U.S. House; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama and leading Republicans, including Senator Marco Rubio, have indicated their strong support for passage of a comprehensive immigration bill in 2013 that includes strengthening border security, imposing penalties for employers that hire undocumented workers, and providing a pathway for undocumented immigrants already in the United States to gain citizenship; and

WHEREAS, advocates of comprehensive immigration reform include a broad range of groups across a wide spectrum of political views; and

WHEREAS, a prominent collection of business and municipal leaders throughout the country have created an organization called Partnership for a New American Economy to advocate for sensible immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, Partnership for a New American Economy has published five principles that should be incorporated into a modern immigration system: (1) attracting and retaining the world's top innovators and entrepreneurs; (2) recruiting talented workers needed to fill gaps in high- and low- skilled sectors of the economy; (3) bringing 11 million undocumented immigrants into the legal economy so that they can pay taxes, attain better education; and contribute more to the economic growth of the United States; (4) developing a state of the arts system to ensure that immigration laws are enforced and obeyed; and (5) ensuring that the immigration system is easy to understand, easy to navigate, and easy to implement; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes since 1999, crime in Venezuela has skyrocketed, private corporations have been seized, media outlets and democratic institutions have been threatened, and human rights have been trampled upon; and

WHEREAS, as a result, Venezuelans who have fled are now an integral part of Doral's cultural fabric and are vital to our region's economic growth. These residents have started countless businesses and invested millions in our community; and

WHEREAS, according to census data, the Venezuelan community in the United States has doubled since 1999, yet, in 2011 alone, asylum was only granted to about half of applicants; and

WHEREAS, United States Congressman Joe Garcia has introduced House Resolution 944 known as the “Venezuelan Liberty Act” which recognizes the unique contributions and political significance of the immigrants who have fled Venezuela in the search of freedom and opportunities in the United States.

WHEREAS, the timing is now right for the United States Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform, including passage of the Venezuelan Liberty Act.

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

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The Doral City Council urges President Barack Obama and the 113th Congress of the United States to enact comprehensive immigration reform that incorporates the five principles embraced by the Partnership for a New American Economy.

Section 3. The City Council hereby urges President Barack Obama and the 113th Congress of the United States to pass House Resolution 944 otherwise known as the “Venezuelan Liberty Act” introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Joe Garcia.

Section 4. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to President Barack Obama, the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator Lindsey Graham, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Bob

Menendez, Senator John McCain, Senator Richard Durbin, Senator Michael Bennett, Senator Jeff Flake, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the Clerk of the United States Senate and the Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security.

Section 5. The City Manager is directed to instruct the City's federal lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in Sections 2 and 3 above.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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The foregoing resolution was offered by Mayor Boria who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez Aguilera and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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| Mayor Luigi Boria | Yes |
| Vice Mayor Bettina Rodriguez-Aguilera | Yes |
| Councilwoman Ana Maria Rodriguez | Yes |
| Councilwoman Christie Fraga | Yes |
| Councilwoman Sandra Ruiz | No |

PASSED and ADOPTED this 18th day of March, 2013.




LUIGI BORIA, MAYOR

ATTEST:



BARBARA HERRERA, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JOE JIMENEZ, ESQ., CITY ATTORNEY