

RESOLUTION No. 15-102

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, CONDEMNING THE ILLEGAL ARREST OF ANTONIO LEDEZMA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CARACAS, VENEZUELA; URGING PRESIDENT BARAK OBAMA AND HIS ADMINISTRATION TO DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF MAYOR LEDEZMA AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS; CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES PERMANENT MISSION TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES TO CALL FOR AN URGENT MEETING TO DELIBERATE ABOUT THE CONTINUED AND ESCALATING ABUSES IN VENEZUELA; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Honorable Antonio Ledezma is the duly-elected Mayor of the City of Caracas, Venezuela, and a longtime critic of the socialist and dictatorial Venezuelan government; and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 2015, dozens of agents of Venezuela's Bolivarian Intelligence Services stormed Mayor Ledezma's office and forcibly arrested him on false charges of sedition and plotting a coup of the Venezuelan government; and

WHEREAS, in the face of dire economic conditions in Venezuela, it is widely known that the arrest of Mayor Ledezma constituted an assault on democracy and nothing more than a political ploy to silence opposition speech and draw attention from the government's inability to stabilize the economy of the country; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing, substantiated reports of repression and violence against citizens, community leaders, and politicians by the Venezuelan government demand that the United States intervene with direct and indirect action in support of the suffering individuals and in defense of freedom; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Doral desire to strenuously condemn the oppressive actions of the Venezuelan government, to voice support for the people of Venezuela who are struggling for freedom, including Mayor Ledezma and other political prisoners, and to urge the United States government to take action against this affront to freedom and democracy.

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

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

Section 2. Recommended Position. The City Council for the City of Doral, Florida, hereby condemns the unlawful and forcible arrest of the Honorable Antonio Lezema, Mayor of City of Caracas, Venezuela, and other political prisoners and the continued acts of repression and violence against the citizens of Venezuela by their government. The City Council continues its support for the Venezuelan opposition leaders and demonstrators that are the subject of violence, intimidation, mistreatment and jailing by the Venezuelan government, and it strongly urges President Barack Obama and his administration to demand the Venezuelan government release of Mayor Ledezma and all political prisoners and halt its repressive and violent actions towards its people. The City Council lastly calls on President Obama to request the U.S. Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States call for an urgent meeting to deliberate about the continued and escalating abuses in Venezuela that are in clear violation of civil, political and human rights laws.

Section 3. Transmittal. The City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit this Resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the leadership of the United States Congress, the members of the Florida Congressional delegation, the United States Representative to the United States Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States, and such other elected leaders as deemed appropriate by the City Manager to ensure that the City's position with this regard is clearly received and understood.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

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

Mayor Luigi Boria	Yes
Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz	Yes
Councilman Pete Cabrera	Yes
Councilwoman Christi Fraga	Yes
Councilwoman Ana Maria Rodriguez	Yes

PASSED and ADOPTED this 18th day of March, 2015.



LUIGI BORIA, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CONNIE DIAZ, INTERIM CITY CLERK

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



WEISS, SEROTA, HELFMAN, COLE & BIERMAN, PL
CITY ATTORNEY