

RESOLUTION No. 15-202

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, CONDEMNING THE UNJUST SENTENCING OF LEOPOLDO LOPEZ; URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS OFFICIALS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, in February of 2014, large anti-government protests were held in Venezuela, which began peacefully and ended in a violent collision between protestors and police, soldiers, and government supporters; and

WHEREAS, the Venezuelan government blamed Leopoldo Lopez, the identified leader of the government opposition movement, for inciting the violent protests and called for his arrests; and

WHEREAS, Leopoldo Lopez turned himself into the authorities and was immediately charged with arson, vandalism, inciting violence and hatred being part of a criminal organization; and

WHEREAS, after a year and half in a military prison, a judge found Leopoldo Lopez guilty in a farcical trial where the defense was allowed to present a case in three (3) hours—compared to 600 hours for the government, and to question no witnesses—compared to the 100 witnesses for the government; and

WHEREAS, Leopoldo Lopez was sentenced to more than thirteen (13) years in prison in what has been internationally held as a miscarriage of justice by a judiciary that is controlled by the authoritarian Venezuelan government; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council believe that this tragedy in Venezuela, which represents one in a long chain of human rights violations by the Venezuelan government, needs to be condemned and brought to the attention of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Doral may only present officially sanctioned positions of the City to the International Affairs Committee of the United States Conference of Mayors for its consideration and support.

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 Mayor and City Council for the City of Doral, Florida, hereby condemn the unjust sentencing of Leopold Lopez, finding it to be an arbitrary sentence at the conclusion of a farcical trial that in total represents a miscarriage of justice and an attack on human rights. The Mayor and City Council call on President Obama and his administration to enforce the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act and apply sanctions on officials in the Venezuelan court system in response to the unjust sentencing of Venezuelan activist Leopoldo López.

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.

The Mayor is hereby directed to transmit this resolution to the International Affairs Committee of the United States Conference of Mayors.

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

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilmember Rodriguez who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cabrera 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 13 day of October, 2015.



LUIGI BORIA, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CONNIE DIAZ, 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