

RESOLUTION No. 08 – 15

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA IN SUPPORT OF A PUBLIC PETITION SPONSORED BY THE CUBAN-AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC. TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CALLING FOR THE CONVENING OF A GRAND JURY TO INVESTIGATE THE DOWNING OF TWO UNARMED U.S. CIVILIAN AIRCRAFTS ON FEBRUARY 24TH, 1996 BY CUBAN AIR FORCE PLANES WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF SEVERAL U.S. CITIZENS INCLUDING VIETNAM VETERAN ARMANDO ALEJANDRE, JR.; CALLING ON THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO TAKE ALL LEGAL STEPS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT JUSTICE AND DUE PROCESS PREVAIL IN THIS CASE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, on February 24th, 1996 two unarmed U.S. licensed civilian aircraft while flying in a humanitarian search and rescue mission in the Florida Strait, were shot down by two Cuban Air Force war planes, causing the death of Vietnam Veteran Armando Alejandro Jr., Corporal United States Marine Corps; U.S. Citizens Mario de la Pena and Carlos Costa, and legal resident Pablo Morales; and

WHEREAS, the planes were shot down with no prior warning or adherence to the protocol established by international laws with regards to civilian unarmed planes; and

WHEREAS, consequent investigations and statements by eye witnesses amply demonstrated that the unarmed planes were shot down in international airspace; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations Security Council, The United Nations Committee on Human Rights, the European Union, The International Civil Aviation Organization and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of the American States condemned this act of terrorism by the Cuban regime; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the overwhelming amount of evidence against the Cuban regime, including the public admission made by both Fidel and Raul Castro admitting direct responsibility for the premeditated criminal act, no action whatsoever has been initiated by the previous or current U.S. administration.

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

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Doral, Florida supports the public petition sponsored by the Cuban American Veterans Association, Inc. to the U.S. Department of Justice calling for the convening of a Grand Jury to investigate the downing of two unarmed U.S. Civilian Aircrafts on February 24th, 1996 by Cuban Air Force Planes which resulted in the Death of several U.S. Citizens including Vietnam Veteran Armando Alejandro, Jr.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Doral, Florida further calls on the U.S. Department of Justice to take all legal steps necessary to ensure that justice and due process prevail in this case.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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

Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez	Yes
Vice Mayor Pete Cabrera	Yes
Councilman Michael DiPietro	Yes
Councilwoman Sandra Ruiz	Yes
Councilman Robert Van Name	Yes

PASSED and ADOPTED this 13th day of February, 2008.



JUAN CARLOS BERMUDEZ, MAYOR

ATTEST:



BARBARA HERRERA, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JOHN HEARN, ESQ., CITY ATTORNEY