

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- 2806

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, URGING PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR. AND THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO CONDEMN THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTS AND SUPPORT THE CUBAN PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND BASIC NEEDS; EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY AND BASIC NEEDS AND DENOUNCING THE CUBAN DICTATORSHIP'S VIOLENCE AGAINST THE CUBAN PEOPLE; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, for over sixty years, the Cuban people have suffered under a Communist dictatorship that has systematically denied the Cuban people their most basic human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban Communist regime continues to repress communications and pleas for help from the Cuban people, with the Associated Press reporting that authorities have blocked social media sites in an effort to stop the flow of information into, out of, and within Cuba; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban Communist regime is stifling freedom of expression by violently attacking, arresting, and imprisoning peaceful protestors and critics of the government; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban Communist regime is brutally beating and arresting the Cuban people for demanding basic freedoms and human needs; and

WHEREAS, despite serious risks to personal health and safety, the Cuban people have mobilized on an unprecedented scale to protest the Cuban Communist regime across Cuba; and

WHEREAS, the widespread protests occurring throughout Cuba are sounding the alarm of the dire situation affecting the Cuban people, and bringing light to the Cuban people's calls for

freedom and an end to the oppressive Communist regime that has tyrannically ruled over the Cuban people with an iron fist for more than half a century; and

WHEREAS, these protests are a historic opportunity to create change in the governance of the Cuban people, as Cubans demand freedom and shout for “*Patria y Vida*”—Homeland and life—a chant that turns a well-known Cuban Communist slogan on its head; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban people are experiencing a humanitarian crisis due to severe food shortages, hunger, and spikes in COVID-19 infections that have led to the collapse of medical systems; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission of the Town of Surfside (“Town”) urges President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and the Biden Administration to support the Cuban people as they struggle for and demand freedom and basic needs; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission wholeheartedly expresses its support for the Cuban people’s struggle for democracy and emphatically denounces the Cuban Communist dictatorship’s violence against the Cuban people.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Recitals.** That the above and foregoing recitals are true and correct and are hereby incorporated by reference.

Section 2. **Urging President Biden and the Biden Administration.** The Town Commission hereby urges President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and his administration to condemn the Cuban Communist dictatorship’s handling of the protests and to support the Cuban people in their struggle for freedom and basic needs.

Section 3. Expressing Support for the Cuban People. The Town Commission expresses its support for the Cuban people's struggle for democracy and basic needs and emphatically denounces the Cuban Communist dictatorship's violence against the Cuban people.

Section 4. Transmittal. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, to the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, and to the Secretary of the United States Department of State.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 10th day of August, 2021.

Motion By: Commissioner Velasquez

Second By: Vice Mayor Paul

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION:

Commissioner Charles Kesl	<u>Absent</u>
Commissioner Eliana R. Salzhauer	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Nelly Velasquez	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Tina Paul	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Charles W. Burkett	<u>Yes</u>



Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra M. McCready, MMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.
Town Attorney