

RESOLUTION NO. 23-1901

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL AND THE FLORIDA MARLINS STIFLING FREE SPEECH DURING THE USA vs. CUBA, WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC GAME; URGING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ADOPT FREE SPEECH PROTECTIONS IN ANY AGREEMENT WITH PROFESSIONAL SPORTS AGENCIES; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE TOWN CLERK AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (FERNANDEZ)

WHEREAS, since 1959, millions of Cubans have been subjugated to violations of human rights, restrictions on freedom of speech, hunger and death at the hands of a communist dictatorship; and

WHEREAS, today, over a million of Cubans have immigrated to Miami-Dade County, Florida seeking freedom of expression, religion, employment, respect of human life; and

WHEREAS, during the month of March, Major League Baseball held the World Baseball Classic, Semi-Final game between the United States and Cuba at Marlins Park, located in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, during the semi-final game between the United States and Cuba, Major League Baseball restricted patrons from wearing clothes, carrying banners, and expressing their love for liberty and their disdain for the repressive Cuban governments; and

WHEREAS, freedom of speech is a fundamental human right which is guaranteed to all Americans and is enshrined in U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Miami Lakes' is home to thousands of Cuban families that have been affected by Major League Baseball's heinous act of stifling freedom of speech during the World Baseball Classic; and

WHEREAS, Marlins Park receives subsidies from Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has a responsibility to uphold the fundamental liberties provided by the U.S. Constitution including freedom of speech; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council condemns the actions taken by Major League Baseball and demands that an apology be provided by Major League Baseball; and

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WHEREAS, the Town Council urges Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners to adopt rules that will ensure that future agreements with professional sports organizations which use Miami-Dade County subsidized facilities contain language that will protect freedom of speech.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 . Recitals. The foregoing Recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Town Council's Condemnation of Major League Baseball Restriction on Free Speech. The Town Council condemns Major League Baseball's actions that restricted speech during the March 2023, World Baseball Classic Semi-Final game between team U.S.A. and Cuba; and demands that Major League Baseball issue an official apology to the Town of Miami Lakes and its residents.

Section 3. Town Council's Urgent Request that Miami-Dade County Incorporate Language in All County Agreements with Professional Sport Organizations that Protects Freedom of Speech. The Town Council urges that Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners incorporate language in all agreements between Miami-Dade County and Professional Sport Organization that use sport facilities that are subsidized by Miami-Dade County.

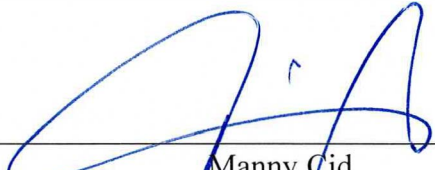
Section 4. Direction to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk is instructed to provide a copy of this resolution to Major League Baseball, the Marlins Organization, and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

Section 5. Providing for an Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Passed and adopted this 11th day of April 2023.

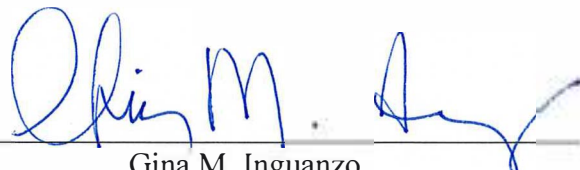
The foregoing resolution was offered by Councilmember Fernandez who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded simultaneously by Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Ruano and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Manny Cid	Yes
Vice Mayor Carlos O. Alvarez	Absent
Councilmember Luis E. Collazo	Yes
Councilmember Josh Dieguez	Yes
Councilmember Tony Fernandez	Yes
Councilmember Ray Garcia	Yes
Councilmember Marilyn Ruano	Yes




Manny Cid
MAYOR

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo
TOWN CLERK

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:



Lorenzo Cobiella
Gastesi, Lopez and Mestre, PLLC
DEPUTY TOWN ATTORNEY