

RESOLUTION NO. 15- 1328

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING THE TOWN'S OPPOSITION TO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND THE OPENING OF A CONSULATE OR DIPLOMATIC OFFICE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; REQUESTING THAT THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FORMALLY JOIN THE TOWN IN ITS OPPOSITION; PROVIDING AUTHORIZATION TO TOWN OFFICIALS; DIRECTING THE CLERK TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE ENTIRE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY MAYOR; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2014, the President of the United States announced that the United States would restore full diplomatic relations with the nation of Cuba after more than 50 years of unconcealed hostility; and

WHEREAS, Cuba has been under the crushing oppression of a brutal communist dictatorship since 1959, led first by Fidel Castro and more recently by his brother Raul; and

WHEREAS, the actions of the Castro brothers have resulted in the impoverishment of the Cuban people and a complete and blatant disregard for human rights and democratic principles by the government of that nation; and

WHEREAS, under the Castro brothers, Cuba has been an active and ominous threat to the vital interests of the United States and all peace-loving nations, as members of Cuba's military and diplomatic corps have worked assiduously to promote violent, anti-democratic revolutions across the globe; and

WHEREAS, the diplomatic initiative announced by the President involved the release of U.S. government subcontractor Alan Gross by Cuba after 5 years of detention due to the absurd and unfounded allegation of the Cuban government that he was a spy, and the release by the United States of three Cuban spies convicted in the United States of conspiracy to commit espionage and conspiracy to commit murder, including the murder of at least three United States citizens, and linked to terrorist activities in this country; and

WHEREAS, numerous respected public officials, both Democratic and Republican, at the federal and state levels, have denounced this restoration of diplomatic relations and strongly believe that it will do nothing to free the Cuban people from the poverty and injustice they have suffered for more than a half century and that it will only serve to support a tottering, bankrupt dictatorship; and

WHEREAS, the residents of this Town are all too familiar with the viciousness of the Castro regime due to the presence of thousands of Cuban-born men and women who fled from a regime intent on stealing their property and putting them at the service of a brutal military government, as they outlawed religious expression, and indoctrinated children to engage in espionage against their own family members; and

WHEREAS, these men and women are heartbroken over how the Castro brothers have destroyed the culture and economic vitality of their beloved island homeland; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper for the Town Council of the Town of Miami Lakes to express profound disagreement with the decision of the President of the United States to restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba.

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

Section 1. Expressing Opposition to Diplomatic Relations with Cuba. The Town Council expresses profound disagreement with the decision of the President of the United States to restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba; opposes the opening of a Cuban consulate or any diplomatic office in Miami-Dade County, Florida; and urges the Congress of the United States to uphold the embargo until such a time when this arcane dictatorship is no longer in power and the most basic human and civil rights are once again recognized in Cuba.

Section 2. Requesting Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners to Join the Town in Opposition. The Town Council hereby requests that the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners formally join the Town in expressing opposition to diplomatic relations with Cuba as expressed in Section 1 herein.

Section 3. Authorization of Town Officials. The Town Manager and/or his designee and the Town Attorney are authorized to take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

Section 4. Directions to Clerk. The Town Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the entire Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners and the Miami-Dade County Mayor.


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

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Passed and adopted this 1st day of September, 2015.

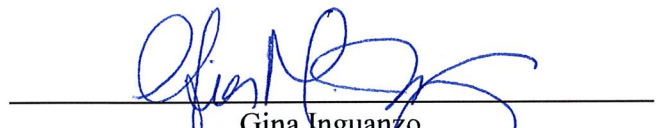
The foregoing resolution was offered by Michael Pizzi who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Nelson Rodriguez and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Michael A. Pizzi, Jr.	<u>YES</u>
Vice Mayor Manny Cid	<u>YES</u>
Councilmember Tim Daubert	<u>YES</u>
Councilmember Tony Lama	<u>YES</u>
Councilmember Ceasar Mestre	<u>YES</u>
Councilmember Frank Mingo	<u>YES</u>
Councilmember Nelson Rodriguez	<u>YES</u>




Michael A. Pizzi, Jr.
MAYOR

Attest:



Gina Inguanzo
TOWN CLERK

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:



Raul Gastesi, Jr.
Gastesi & Associates, P.A.
TOWN ATTORNEY