

RESOLUTION R-21-141

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING PEACEFUL PROTESTS FOR DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY IN CUBA; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, a historic gathering of protests is occurring in Cuba, where Cuban citizens are protesting in demand of democracy, liberty, economic security and access to COVID-19 vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, the protests are occurring in a time of great civil discontent in Cuba, where tremendous economic woes combine with a natural desire to be free; and

WHEREAS, at the center of these protests is the will of Cubans to be in charge of their own destiny through democracy and free elections; and

WHEREAS, the systemic and continued repression of the Cuban people has resulted in a nation where Cuban citizens are not in charge of their own destiny and future; and

WHEREAS, liberty in Cuba is defined as not only economic liberty, but also civil liberties, which includes the right to vote, liberty of conscience and the right to self-determination, and which civil liberties are the right of every person, including Cubans; and

WHEREAS, as long as free elections are not held in Cuba, the welfare of the Cuban people will continue to be structurally burdened and protests will continue; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban communist regime continues to deprive the people of Cuba of peaceful means to improve their lives and has resulted in everyday Cubans risking their lives and well-being to protest openly to demand immediate change; and

WHEREAS, according to Amnesty International, the Cuban communist regime continues to “clamp down on all forms of dissent, imprisoning political leaders, independent journalists and artists”; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County is a new home for many refugees, including Cuban refugees, and is an open and welcoming County that supports refugees and respects and values their life stories and journeys as they take the path to US citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay area has a unique cultural connection to Cuba because generations of Cubans have made the journey, as immigrants and refugees, from Cuba to our region for a better life, and today Manatee County is home to many Cuban refugees who fled the Castro regime; and

WHEREAS, that connection to Cuba continues with many Cuban-Americans in Manatee County having active family connections to Cuba through remittances, correspondence to and travel to Cuba to visit and support family, such that the ties that bind our area and Cuba are many and are formed out of history and family; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County values our best aspirational American values of liberty, tolerance and freedom, and these are the ideas and values that Cubans march for today; and

WHEREAS, the people of Manatee County support the right of the people of Cuba to peacefully protest to secure basic civil liberties; and

WHEREAS, the people of Manatee County stand with the people of Cuba in support of their quest for democracy, liberty and freedom; and

WHEREAS, the people of Manatee County stand with the people of Cuba in support of their demand for a right to self-determination, freedom of conscience, a right to privacy and other basic civil liberties; and

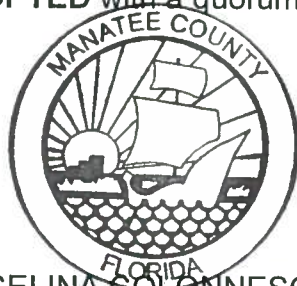
WHEREAS, Manatee County is home to many immigrants and refugees, and so stands with the people of Cuba in their quest for immediate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee, Florida that:

The Board of County Commissioners supports the peaceful protests for democracy and liberty in Cuba.

This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

DULY ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 27th day of July, 2021.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Chairperson

ATTEST: ANGELINA COLONNESO
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

By: _____
Deputy Clerk