



# City of Miami

## Legislation Resolution

City Hall  
3500 Pan American  
Drive  
Miami, FL 33133  
www.miamigov.com

File Number: 15-01406

Final Action Date:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION URGING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND THE 114TH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROTECT VENEZUELAN REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES AND ADJUST THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS AS STATED HEREIN; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICIALS STATED HEREIN.

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2015, a bipartisan committee of United States Congressmen introduced the Venezuelan Refugee Assistance Act ("H.R. 3744"), a bill proposing to protect Venezuelan refugees in the United States and adjust their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3744 was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary; and

WHEREAS, whether the United States Senate will consider the bill is uncertain; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami ("City") recognizes that since 1999, crime in Venezuela has skyrocketed, private corporations have been seized, media outlets and democratic institutions have been threatened, human rights have been violated, and the repressive governments of Hugo Chávez, and now Nicolas Maduro, have arbitrarily arrested, tortured and killed members of the civil society; and

WHEREAS, Venezuelan refugees living in the United States will suffer terrible humanitarian consequences under physical, moral, and psychological hardships if they are removed from the United States after arrival and returned to Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, there is presently a backlog in interviews for political asylum for Venezuelan refugees as far out as 2019; and

WHEREAS, the increase of Venezuelans deported and a continuation of current immigration policies have exacerbated the living conditions of United States citizens who are children of Venezuelan parents that have been or will be deported; and

WHEREAS, Venezuelans who have fled Venezuela to the City are now an integral part of the City's cultural fabric and are vital to our region's economic growth due to the countless local businesses and millions of dollars they have invested into our community; and

WHEREAS, the City has a population of more than 70% Hispanics/Latinos, many of whom are Venezuelans and many of whom may have an expired immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the City is home to many immigrants from various parts of the world, including Venezuelans, and it is the right time to demonstrate that keeping families together is a priority by urging President Barack Obama and the United States Congress to protect Venezuelan refugees who are unable to safely return to their homeland;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA:

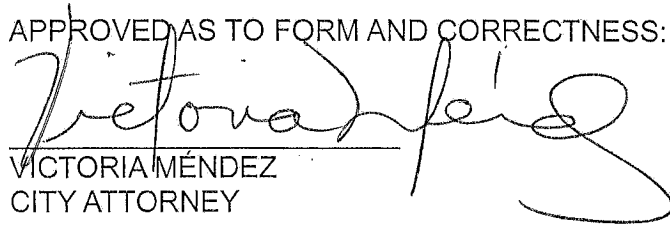
Section 1. The recitals and findings contained in the Preamble to this Resolution are adopted by reference and incorporated as if fully set forth in this Section.

Section 2. The Miami City Commission urges President Barack Obama and the members of the 114th Congress of the United States to protect Venezuelan refugees in the United States and to adjust their immigration status pursuant to H.R. 3744.

Section 3. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Florida Congressional Delegation, and the thirty-five (35) municipalities that comprise the Miami-Dade County League of Cities.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and signature of the Mayor.{1}

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS:



VICTORIA MÉNDEZ  
CITY ATTORNEY

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Footnotes:

{1} If the Mayor does not sign this Resolution, it shall become effective at the end of ten (10) calendar days from the date it was passed and adopted. If the Mayor vetoes this Resolution, it shall become effective immediately upon override of the veto by the City Commission.