

RESOLUTION NO. 17-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, URGING PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO EXTEND TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR HAITIAN NATIONALS FOR 18 MONTHS BEYOND JANUARY 22, 2018; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2010, the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian nationals who were in the United States as of January 12, 2010, the date of the devastating earthquake in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the TPS designation allows eligible Haitian nationals to temporarily continue living and working in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the TPS was made available to Haitian nationals for 18 months from January 12, 2010 to July 22, 2011; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2011, Haiti's TPS designation was extended and redesignated for 18 months, on January 23, 2016 and was scheduled to expire on July 22, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Haiti's TPS designation was extended and re-designated on May 23, 2017 for six (6) months, and the latest extension expires on January 22, 2018; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump addressed a crowd of Haitian Americans in Miami's Little Haiti on September 16, 2016 and promised to be the Haitian community's "greatest champion," saying, "The entrepreneurship, creativity; faith, a lot of faith; all the things that make America good and strong can be found right here, amazing people, so I come here today to say that the Haitian American community deserves our gratitude and our respect, and I want you to know you have my respect;" and

WHEREAS, President Trump in those remarks said, "I send my prayers, I've been seeing so much as to what's been going on in Haiti, and its simply hard to believe that something like that could have happened, the turmoil and pain and suffering that so many people are going through. The 2010 Haitian earthquake unleashed a horrible and

catastrophic devastation; over 300,000 dead, unbelievable, 300,000, millions displaced or injured, homes, businesses, schools reduced to rubble; amid the suffering Haiti showed the world so much heart and so much in credible resilience, but the truth is Haiti is still suffering very badly, maybe as badly, after all of the tears and all of the money and all of the work;" and

WHEREAS, Haiti has not yet recovered from the 2010 earthquake; the nation suffers from economic and political crises, rampant Zika and Chikungunya, the effects of a devastating cholera epidemic which has killed 10,000 and sickened 900,000, and most recently, the destructive effects of Hurricane Matthew, which cost Haiti \$2.7 billion or 32% of its GDP per a March, 2017 United Nations report; and

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2016, Hurricane Matthew was the first Category 4 hurricane to hit Haiti in 52 years; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Matthew affected 2 million Haitians, left at least 1.4 million in need of emergency aid, killed 1,000 people, rendered 806,000 people extremely food insecure, left 1,250,000 Haitians-including a half-million children-without safe water, wiped out livestock and crops in broad areas, damaged or destroyed 1,663 schools, dramatically increased the number of cholera cases in Haiti, and left entire towns completely destroyed and cut off from the outside world by flooding and damage; and

WHEREAS, nearly six months after Hurricane Matthew, the United Nations estimated that hundreds of thousands of Haitians remain "extremely food insecure," some have died as a result of malnutrition, and thousands may starve to death in what experts describe as a looming humanitarian disaster; and

WHEREAS, on or about September 9, 2017, Hurricane Irma, a Category 5 hurricane, greatly impacted the northern coast of Haiti devastating those residents and jeopardizing their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, an issue of great concern and shared value in Haitian American communities throughout the United States is that the Trump administration should extend Haiti's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for at least 18 months beyond its current expiration date due to, and until it has recovered from, the extraordinary and massive calamities which have recently befallen Haiti, including the 2010 earthquake from which recovery remains incomplete with scores of thousands of quake victims still homeless; the unchecked cholera epidemic introduced by United Nations (UN) peacekeepers to Haiti in October 2010 (after cholera's absence from Haiti for at least the prior 100 years) which has killed at least 10,000 and sickened over 800,000 to date, and for which the UN to date has raised only \$10 million of its target of \$400 million to begin addressing the epidemic and eradicating the disease from Haiti;

and last October's Hurricane Matthew, the worst to hit Haiti in 52 years, which killed 1,000 people, effected two million, left hundreds of thousands without safe drinking water or adequate food, destroyed crops and livestock in broad areas, inundated vast areas and towns and destroyed infrastructure; struck Haiti's southern peninsula, one of the nation's breadbaskets, greatly exacerbating the nation's food insecurity crisis after a three-year drought in Haiti's rice-growing Artibonite; significantly exacerbated the cholera epidemic, spiking cases of the disease; and has caused Haiti's government to declare a "state of emergency" in Haiti's south due to the destruction; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2017, the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) extended Haiti's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for only six (6) months beyond its then-scheduled July 22, 2017 expiration date, and it is now scheduled to end on January 22, 2018; and

WHEREAS, USDHS's May 22, 2017 announcement warned Haitian TPS recipients to prepare to return to Haiti after January 22, 2018 because further extension is by no means assured; and

WHEREAS, USDHS took these steps despite the requests of Haiti's government, which prior to May 22, 2017 in meetings with and at least one letter to high U.S. government officials specifically requested TPS's extension for at least 18 months, and which currently continues to desire an extension beyond January 22, 2018 of at least 18 months to enable it to deal with the overwhelming challenges facing the country due to the above-referenced catastrophes; and

WHEREAS, before USDHS's May 22, 2017 announcement, prior Haiti TPS extensions had appropriately, based on an assessment of Haiti conditions, always been for 18-month periods; and

WHEREAS, USDHS by November 23, 2017 must decide whether to terminate or extend Haiti's TPS designation, and if the latter for how long; and

WHEREAS, President Trump will violate his campaign pledges to the Haitian American community, including to be its "greatest champion," if DHS, which is under his control, does not by November 23, 2017 extend Haiti's TPS designation for 18 months beyond January 22, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the 50,000 Haitians with TPS have been in the US for at least six and a half years, the vast majority since well before the January 2010 earthquake, and have strong community ties including families with U.S.-born, American-citizen children; and

WHEREAS, their deportation to Haiti would therefore be destabilizing, increasing desperation and leading to more unsafe sea voyages, entailing increased loss of life at sea and the commitment of increased U.S. Coast Guard interdiction actions and resources; and

WHEREAS, Haiti's recovery and stability are in the national security interest of the United States, and therefore the extension of Haiti's TPS designation for no less than 18 months beyond its current January 22, 2018 expiration date, is in the national security interests of both the United States and Haiti; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan political, editorial, and civil society support for a generous extension of Haiti's TPS designation based on Haiti conditions is great and has included 100 members of Congress, major national and Florida editorial boards, Republican governors Scott of Florida and Baker of Massachusetts, religious leaders, and professionals, among many other national and local organizations and political and other leaders; and

WHEREAS, Haiti's government continues to be in no position to insure safety to or assimilate the 50,000 Haitians with TPS, nor to make up for their remittances should they be curtailed by their deportation, and it remains unsafe to deport them; and

WHEREAS, USDHS is considering whether to extend the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for all nationals that currently hold TPS designations including over 300,000 Haitian immigrants; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that ending TPS designations for immigrants from Haiti would result in a \$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade, and the deportation of these individuals would cost taxpayers approximately \$3.1 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, there continues to be extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent immigrants from Haiti from safely returning to their home nations, and

WHEREAS, the City Commission believes that the extension of the TPS designation for 18 months would be in the best interests of the Haitian residents of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and the State of Florida;

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

SECTION 1. The foregoing recitals are hereby ratified and incorporated as the legislative intent of this Resolution.

SECTION 2. The City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale hereby urges President Donald Trump, White House Chief of Staff John F. Kelly, Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson, and USDHS Acting Secretary Elaine Duke to extend Temporary Protected Status for Haitian nationals for 18 months beyond the current January 22, 2018 expiration date.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to President Donald Trump, White House Chief of Staff John F. Kelly, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, USDHS Acting Secretary Elaine Duke, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate President, Broward County Legislative Delegation, Governor Rick Scott, the Broward League of Cities, the Florida League of Cities, and each of the municipalities in Broward County.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this the ____ day of _____, 2017.

Mayor
JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER

ATTEST:

City Clerk
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI