

Resolution No. 525-2020

By Council Members Griffin, Zone, Santana
and McCormack

FOR PASSAGE
July 1, 2020

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Calling for an end to the United States' economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and urging President Trump to renew negotiations with the Cuban government as initiated by the policy of past administrations and to build an ongoing cooperative relationship between the United States and Cuba.

WHEREAS, in 1960, the United States government imposed an economic, commercial and financial embargo against the Caribbean island nation of Cuba; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2014, President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations between the two nations; and

WHEREAS, despite executive action by President Obama easing certain regulations, the U.S. embargo remains in place between the two nations; and

WHEREAS, the easing of international relations and trade between the U.S. and Cuba benefits both countries, particularly in the areas of food production, education, healthcare, tourism, the arts, music and biotechnological and medical research; and

WHEREAS, an end to the embargo would enable not only renewed diplomatic relations allowing for a dialog on human rights, direct travel for the citizens of both countries, and direct mail services, but also a significant expansion of international trade; and

WHEREAS, normalization of relations with Cuba would greatly benefit Ohio's economy including increased trade opportunities in consumer products and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, nevertheless, in September 2017, without any precipitating hostile events, President Trump ordered all diplomatic staff withdrawn from the U.S. Embassy in Havana and expelled diplomatic staff from the Cuban Embassy in Washington, D.C., signaling a pause, if not an end to normalization efforts between the two countries; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council calls for an end to the United States' economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and urges President Trump to renew negotiations with the Cuban government as initiated by the policy of past administrations and to build an ongoing cooperative relationship between the United States and Cuba.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to President Trump and to the members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

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**REPORT
after second Reading**

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READ FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME

READ FIRST TIME on

REPORTS

as referred to

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME on JULY 1, 2020

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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