

**PROPOSED**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

1  
2 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
3 COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
4 URGING PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., TO GRANT  
5 TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS EXTENSIONS TO  
6 VENEZUELAN NATIONALS AND URGING THE UNITED  
7 STATES CONGRESS TO CREATE A MORE EFFICIENT  
8 AND STREAMLINED PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP; AND  
9 PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE  
10 DATE.

11 (Sponsored by Mayor Steve Geller)

12 WHEREAS, Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) may be granted to persons  
13 residing in the United States who are nationals of countries enduring conditions that  
14 temporarily prevent them from returning safely or, in certain circumstances, where  
15 countries are unable to adequately handle the return of their nationals;

16 WHEREAS, the Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security  
17 (“DHS”) may designate a country for TPS due to any of the following temporary conditions  
18 in the country: (1) ongoing armed conflict, such as civil war; (2) an environmental disaster,  
19 such as an earthquake or hurricane; or (3) any other extraordinary and temporary  
20 condition;

21 WHEREAS, on August 3, 2021, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro  
22 Mayorkas announced an extension of TPS designation for Venezuelan nationals through  
23 September 9, 2022;

24 WHEREAS, TPS beneficiaries receive a temporary stay of deportation and  
authorization to work in the United States for the duration of their TPS;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 320,000 Venezuelan nationals, most of  
whom live in the State of Florida, qualify for TPS;

1           WHEREAS, the limited TPS conferred to Venezuelan nationals is insufficient to  
2 account for the lengthy legal process required to gain lawful immigration status, which  
3 takes four (4) years on average;

4           WHEREAS, the lengthy and arduous process for gaining lawful immigration status  
5 in the United States often leads to those individuals seeking lawful status to inadvertently  
6 reside in this country illegally due to gaps in the current immigration system;

7           WHEREAS, extending TPS protection for a period of five (5) to ten (10) years can  
8 help fill those gaps and grant those individuals seeking lawful immigration status the time  
9 to go through the necessary legal process;

10          WHEREAS, studies show that South Florida’s immigration court system denies  
11 about ninety percent (90%) of asylum cases;

12          WHEREAS, TPS does not provide beneficiaries with a separate path to citizenship  
13 and it is within the authority of the United States Congress to create a more efficient and  
14 streamlined pathway to citizenship for Venezuelan nationals with TPS; and

15          WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida  
16 (“Board”), would like to urge President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to extend TPS protection for  
17 an extended period of time and to urge the United States Congress to create a more  
18 efficient and streamlined pathway to citizenship for Venezuelan nationals with TPS, NOW,  
19 THEREFORE,

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21           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
22 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

1           Section 1.    The Board urges President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to grant and extend  
2 TPS to Venezuelan nationals for a suggested period of five (5) years to ten (10) years, in  
3 recognition of the lengthy legal process required to obtain legal immigration status in the  
4 United States.

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6           Section 2.    The Board urges the United States Congress to establish a more  
7 efficient and streamlined pathway to citizenship for Venezuelan nationals with TPS.

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9           Section 3.    The Board authorizes transmission of this Resolution to President  
10 Joseph R. Biden, Jr., White House Chief of Staff Ron A. Klain, DHS Secretary Alejandro  
11 Mayorkas, and to the members of the Broward Congressional Delegation.

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13          Section 4.    The Board directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the  
14 actions set forth in Section 1 and Section 2 above and authorizes and directs the Office  
15 of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2021 Federal Legislative Package to include  
16 this item.

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18          Section 5.    Severability.

19          If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid  
20 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this  
21 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be  
22 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such  
23 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,  
24 group, entity, property, or circumstance.

1 Section 6. Effective Date.

2 This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

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4 ADOPTED this day of October, 2021. **PROPOSED**

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6 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:  
7 Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

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9 By /s/ Alexis I. Marrero Koratich 09/22/2021  
10 Alexis I. Marrero Koratich (date)  
11 Assistant County Attorney

12 By /s/ Maite Azcoitia 09/22/2021  
13 Maite Azcoitia (date)  
14 Deputy County Attorney

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23 AIK/gmb  
24 Support of TPS and Pathway to Citizenship Resolution  
09/22/2021  
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