

PROPOSED

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO EXTEND TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (“TPS”) DESIGNATION FOR HONDURAS AND TO DECLARE A NEW INITIAL TPS DESIGNATION DATE FOR HONDURAS; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness)

WHEREAS, on January 5, 1999, Honduran nationals were granted Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) as a result of the devastation caused to Honduras by Hurricane Mitch, which killed over 10,000 people, destroyed thousands of homes, and caused over \$5 billion in damage;

WHEREAS, Honduran nationals eligible for TPS protection must have been present in the United States as of January 5, 1999;

WHEREAS, the TPS designation for Honduras had been subsequently extended on numerous occasions until 2017 when the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) announced its decision to terminate the TPS designation for Honduras effective January 5, 2020, following an 18-month transition period;

WHEREAS, due to a series of legal challenges, the TPS designation for Honduras was not terminated on January 5, 2020, and, most recently, on September 10, 2021, DHS announced that the TPS designation for Honduras was extended through December 31, 2022, because of the legal challenges;

WHEREAS, in the time since the initial announcement that the TPS designation for Honduras would be terminated, the situation in Honduras has deteriorated; the country has suffered devastating effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, and, in November 2020,

1 two Category 4 Hurricanes, Eta and Iota, ravaged Honduras less than two weeks apart
2 destroying roads, homes, hospitals, schools, and other critical infrastructure;

3 WHEREAS, the devastation caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota—loss of 80% of
4 the agricultural sector and over \$1.86 billion in damages in the midst of a pandemic—is
5 on the scale to justify an independent designation of TPS for Honduras as the country
6 struggles to recover;

7 WHEREAS, the approximately 57,000 Hondurans who currently have TPS have
8 been in the United States since at least January of 1999, and have strong community
9 ties, including U.S.-born children who should not have to choose between their parents
10 and their birthright as Americans;

11 WHEREAS, according to the Central Bank of Honduras, 22% percent of the Gross
12 Domestic Product (“GDP”) of Honduras comes from remittances from TPS recipients and
13 others, totaling more than \$5.7 billion annually;

14 WHEREAS, Honduras will be unable to safely receive or assimilate 57,000 or more
15 Hondurans with TPS or to replace their remittances, which help sustain its economy,
16 rendering deportations of Hondurans with TPS both unsafe and destabilizing; and

17 WHEREAS, Honduras currently meets all of the requirements for an initial
18 designation of a foreign state under the TPS program—the environmental disasters of
19 Hurricane Eta, Hurricane Iota, and the COVID-19 pandemic have caused a substantial
20 disruption of the living conditions in Honduras, Honduras is currently unable to adequately
21 handle the return of its nationals, and Honduran Minister of Foreign Affairs Lisandro
22 Rosales officially requested designation of Honduras under the TPS statute on
23 December 4, 2020, NOW, THEREFORE,

24

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
2 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

3
4 Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida
5 (“Board”), urges President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to instruct DHS to adopt a new TPS
6 designation date for Honduras and to extend TPS designation for Honduras beyond its
7 current December 31, 2022, expiration date.

8
9 Section 2. The Board urges Secretary of State Antony Blinken to recommend
10 to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and DHS that conditions in Honduras fully warrant that
11 DHS adopt a new TPS designation date for Honduras and to extend TPS designation for
12 Honduras beyond its current December 31, 2022, expiration date.

13
14 Section 3. The Board urges DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to adopt a new
15 TPS designation date for Honduras and to extend TPS designation for Honduras beyond
16 its current December 31, 2022, expiration date.

17
18 Section 4. The Board authorizes transmission of this Resolution to President
19 Joseph R. Biden, Jr., White House Chief of Staff Ron A. Klain, Secretary of State Antony
20 Blinken, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, and the members of the
21 Broward Congressional Delegation.

1 Section 5. Severability.

2 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid portion
3 will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this
4 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be
5 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such
6 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,
7 group, entity, property, or circumstance.

8
9 Section 6. Effective Date.

10 This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

11
12 ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2021. **PROPOSED**

13
14 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:
15 Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

16
17 By /s/ Annika E. Ashton 10/07/2021
18 Annika E. Ashton (date)
19 Deputy County Attorney

20
21
22
23 AEA/sr
24 HondurasTPS 2021.doc
10/07/2021
#589528