

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
3 COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
4 URGING THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
5 TO PROVIDE THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI WITH TECHNICAL  
6 ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND  
7 SECURITY SUPPORT FOR THE COUNTRY'S UPCOMING  
8 ELECTIONS; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
9 TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE  
10 OFFICIALS DESIGNATED HEREIN; AND PROVIDING FOR  
11 SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

12 (Sponsored by Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness)

13 WHEREAS, in 1804, Jean Jacques Dessalines and Alexander Petion, leaders of  
14 two rival groups, met and joined forces to defeat French colonial rule, thereby leading to  
15 the independence of Haiti and the creation of the first Black Republic in the world;

16 WHEREAS, the fight for Haitian independence ultimately created the  
17 circumstances that led France to sell the Louisiana territory, which included all of  
18 Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska, and portions of Louisiana,  
19 North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and Minnesota, to the United  
20 States in 1803;

21 WHEREAS, the Republic of Haiti ("Haiti") was the first nation to permanently ban  
22 both slavery and the slave trade;

23 WHEREAS, Haiti and descendants of persons of Haitian origin have been  
24 instrumental to the history of the United States, including through their bravery in fighting  
for United States independence at the 1779 Battle of Savannah and the founding of the  
City of Chicago by Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, traditionally recognized as being of  
Haitian descent;

1 WHEREAS, the Haitian government provided refuge to Simon Bolivar and offered  
2 military and other technical assistance to Bolivar as he sought to win independence from  
3 colonial rule for various countries in Central and South America;

4 WHEREAS, South Florida has a Haitian-American population of more than  
5 300,000, and Broward County is home to more than 116,000 people of Haitian ancestry;

6 WHEREAS, the United States and Haiti had \$2.3 billion in total goods trade during  
7 2019, and Haiti conducted approximately \$1 billion in trade with South Florida during  
8 2020;

9 WHEREAS, parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held in Haiti on  
10 September 19, 2021;

11 WHEREAS, the promotion of free and fair elections and political stability in Haiti is  
12 in the best interests of the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States has the ability to support a safe and credible election  
14 process in Haiti by providing technical assistance, training, financial support, and security  
15 support in connection with the parliamentary elections, NOW, THEREFORE,

16  
17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
18 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

19  
20 Section 1. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners urges the  
21 United States federal government to provide Haiti with technical assistance, training,  
22 financial support, and security support for the country's upcoming parliamentary elections.  
23  
24

1 Section 2. The County Administrator shall transmit a certified copy of this  
2 resolution to the President of the United States, the Members of the Florida Congressional  
3 Delegation, and the Members of the Broward County State Legislative Delegation.

4 Section 3. Severability.

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

11 Section 4. Effective Date.

12 This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

13  
14 ADOPTED this day of , 2021.

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

18 By /s/ Alicia C. Lobeiras 04/21/2021  
19 Alicia C. Lobeiras (date)  
20 Assistant County Attorney

21 By /s/ Annika E. Ashton 04/21/2021  
22 Annika E. Ashton (date)  
23 Deputy County Attorney

24 ACL/mdw  
Resolution – Haiti Elections.doc  
04/21/2021  
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