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For Immediate Release

North Miami Council Members to Host Press Conference on the Humanitarian Situation in the Dominican Republic

North Miami, FL – July 9, 2015 – The City of North Miami Council last night unanimously passed a resolution condemning Dominican Republic human rights violations against its citizens of Haitian ethnic origin. These historic injustices are of grave and immediate concern to Haitian-Americans locally and nationally, as demonstrated by widespread protests. The resolution strongly urges President Obama, Vice President Biden and Secretary of State Kerry to speak out publicly and assert U.S. political and economic leverage to compel the Dominican government to fully reverse course and to respect and protect the human rights of all of its citizens and migrants regardless of race or ethnic origin.

On Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 10:00 A.M Mayor Smith Joseph, Vice-Mayor Carol Keys, Councilmembers Scott Galvin, Phillipe Bien-Aime, and Alix Desulme, will hold a press conference encouraging other cities to pass similarly strong resolutions. The press conference will take place in front of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) located 770 NE 125th Street North Miami, Florida 33161 next to City Hall.

Councilmember Alix Desulme, who introduced the resolution, said, “The White House and State Department have been silent in the face of these massive and historic violations and should at the very highest levels, not only publicly and vociferously condemn them but tell Dominican leaders in unambiguous terms that productive relations with the United States require them to immediately take all measures necessary to reverse course and to fully protect the human and civil rights of hundreds of thousands of Dominican-Haitians now living in terror due to their government’s racist actions.”

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