

Friday, August 21, 2015 Edna LaRoche, Executive Asst. to the Mayor (954) 602-3198 (o); (954) 541-7562 (c) elaroche@miramarfl.gov

## CITY OF MIRAMAR COMMISSION PASSES RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HAITIANS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...City of Miramar, FL – Mayor Wayne Messam initiated a Resolution at Wednesday's Commission meeting condemning the mass deportation of Haitians in the Dominican Republic. The Commission voted unanimously in support.

The Commission added an amendment to Temp. Resolution #R5897, urging the Dominican Republic to comply with international human rights laws, halting all impending deportations.

"The City of Miramar has a large population of Haitians in our wonderful City and it is important that they know we support the community during this difficult time," said Messam.

Attending and speaking at the meeting were a number of supporters including Executive Director of Haitian Women of Miami, Marleine Bastien, who spoke passionately stating that Haitians born in the Dominican Republic are not immigrants, they are Dominican and should not be deported. Also addressing the Commission were Guithele Ruiz-Nicolas, President of the Haitian American Democratic Club of Broward County and attorney Marlon Hill.

Miramar's first elected Haitian American, Vice Mayor Darline Riggs, also spoke in support of the resolution asking attendees to imagine themselves in a similar situation.

Photo #1 – Mayor Wayne Messam with Haitian Women of Miami Director Marleine Bastien and Patrick Jabouin

Photo#2 – Mayor Wayne Messam with Miramar Commissioners and meeting attendees including Guithele Ruiz-Nicolas of Haitian of HADC and Marleine Bastien of Haitian Women of Miami.

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## About The City of Miramar

The City of Miramar is located in South Florida within Broward County. It is a diverse community of 126,619 residents and recognized as a geographic hub for numerous corporations of various sizes including major players in key global industries such as airlines, cruise lines, healthcare, finance, media and communications. As a strategic destination in South Florida, it is noted for its quick access to all major highways, South Florida's ports and airports. For more information about Miramar, please visit: <a href="http://www.miramarfl.gov">http://www.miramarfl.gov</a>.