

1
2 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
3 COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA,
4 URGING PRESIDENT TRUMP TO HONOR HIS
5 CAMPAIGN PLEDGES TO THE HAITIAN-AMERICAN
6 COMMUNITY BY EXTENDING HAITI'S TEMPORARY
7 PROTECTED STATUS DESIGNATION FOR 18 MONTHS
8 BEYOND JANUARY 22, 2018; AND PROVIDING FOR
9 SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

10 WHEREAS, on September 16, 2016, President Donald J. Trump told Haitian
11 Americans he would be their "greatest champion," praising their "perseverance,
12 entrepreneurship, creativity, [and] faith" and saying "all the things that make America
13 good and strong can be found right here, amazing people, so I come here today to say
14 that the Haitian-American community deserves our gratitude and our respect, and I
15 want you to know you have my respect"; and

16 WHEREAS, President Trump continued, "it's simply hard to believe that
17 something like that could have happened, the turmoil and pain and suffering that so
18 many people are going through. The 2010 Haitian earthquake unleashed a horrible and
19 catastrophic devastation: over 300,000 dead, unbelievable, 300,000, millions displaced
20 or injured, homes, businesses, schools reduced to rubble; amid the suffering Haiti
21 showed the world so much heart and so much incredible resilience, but the truth is Haiti
22 is still suffering very badly, maybe as badly, after all of the tears and all of the money
23 and all of the work"; and

24 WHEREAS, President Trump continued, "The Haitian people deserve better, so
... I will give them better. Today we begin a new chapter, together we will build a

1 relationship based on mutual respect and friendship and love, and ... we will really do
2 something very special with our commonly shared values, because we have lots of
3 commonly shared values, maybe *full* shared values.... and whether you vote for me or
4 don't vote me, I really want to be your greatest champion, and I will be your champion
5 whether you vote for me or not.... we are going to do things for you folks that you have
6 really deserved for a long time. You're an amazing community, and it's an honor to be
7 with you"; and

8
9 WHEREAS, an issue of great concern and shared value in Haitian-American
10 communities is that the Trump administration should extend Haiti's Temporary
11 Protected Status ("TPS") designation for at least 18 months beyond its current
12 January 22, 2018, expiration date due to, and until it has recovered from, recent
13 extraordinary calamities, including the 2010 earthquake from which recovery remains
14 incomplete with scores of thousands of quake victims still homeless; the unchecked
15 cholera epidemic introduced by United Nations ("UN") peacekeepers in October 2010
16 (Haiti had not had cholera for at least the prior 100 years) which has killed at least
17 10,000 and sickened over 800,000, and for which the UN to date has raised only \$10
18 million of its recently targeted \$400 million to address the epidemic; and last October's
19 Hurricane Matthew, the worst in 52 years, which killed 1,000 people, left hundreds of
20 thousands without safe water or food, inundated vast areas and towns and destroyed
21 crops, livestock, and infrastructure in broad areas; struck Haiti's southern peninsula, one
22 of the nation's breadbaskets, exacerbating the nation's food insecurity crisis after a
23 three-year drought in Haiti's rice-growing Artibonite; exacerbated the unchecked cholera

24

1 epidemic, spiking cases of the water-borne disease; and caused Haiti's government
2 recently to declare a "state of emergency" in Haiti's south; and

3
4 WHEREAS, on May 22, 2017, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security
5 ("DHS") extended Haiti's TPS designation for only six months, warning recipients to be
6 prepared to return to Haiti, and it is now scheduled to end on January 22, 2018; and

7
8 WHEREAS, Haiti's government has requested an extension of at least 18 months
9 to enable it to deal with the overwhelming challenges facing the country due to these
10 calamities, and DHS by November 23 must decide whether to terminate or extend
11 Haiti's TPS designation; and

12
13 WHEREAS, President Trump will violate his campaign pledges to the
14 Haitian-American community if DHS does not extend Haiti's TPS designation for 18
15 months; and

16
17 WHEREAS, before May 22, 2017, prior Haiti TPS extensions had always been
18 for 18-month periods, based on an accurate assessment of Haiti conditions; and

19
20 WHEREAS, in a detailed December 2016 assessment, United States Citizenship
21 and Immigration Services ("USCIS") concluded that conditions in Haiti warranting TPS
22 persist, and then-Secretary of State Kerry recommended its extension; and

23

24

1 WHEREAS, a few months later USCIS under President Trump recommended
2 *against* extension, contradicting its December assessment, and its new head of policy
3 and strategy urged staff to find evidence of Haitian "criminality" to justify ending TPS,
4 demonizing an entire ethnicity and despite the TPS statute's disqualification of anyone
5 with a felony or two misdemeanors; and

6
7 WHEREAS, TPS is a humanitarian program to which such considerations are
8 irrelevant and is violative of the President's pledges to respect and greatly champion
9 Haitian Americans; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Haiti's government, overwhelmed by the recent extraordinary
12 calamities of earthquake, cholera epidemic, Hurricane Matthew, and food insecurity, is
13 struggling to cope; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the 50,000 Haitians with TPS have been in the US since at least
16 January 12, 2011, most for seven to 15 years, and have community ties including
17 U.S.-born children who should not have to choose between their parents and their
18 birthright as Americans; and

19
20 WHEREAS, these 50,000 Haitians regularly send remittances that sustain about
21 250,000 to 500,000 relatives in Haiti, relatives who in 2015 received from Haitians in the
22 United States \$1.3 billion in remittances, constituting Haiti's chief source of foreign
23 assistance; and

24

1 WHEREAS, Haiti's government, while struggling to recover from the recent
2 catastrophes described above, including scores of thousands of quake victims
3 remaining homeless, the unchecked cholera epidemic for which the UN to date has
4 raised insufficient funds, Hurricane Matthew's vast destruction, and food insecurity, not
5 to mention an influx of repatriates from the Dominican Republic and other challenges
6 until at least mid-2019, will be unable to safely receive or assimilate 50,000 or more
7 Haitians with TPS or to replace their remittances, which help sustain its economy,
8 rendering such deportations both unsafe and destabilizing; and

9
10 WHEREAS, such deportations would therefore increase desperation and
11 migration, resulting in tragedies at sea and requiring increased U.S. Coast Guard
12 interdiction resources; and

13
14 WHEREAS, Haiti's recovery and stability are in the national security interest of
15 the United States, and the extension of Haiti's TPS designation for no less than 18
16 months is therefore in the national security interests of both the United States and Haiti;
17 and

18
19 WHEREAS, Haiti is a textbook case for TPS and its generous extension, given
20 the extraordinary events and facts described above; and

21
22 WHEREAS, bipartisan political, editorial, and civil society support for a generous
23 extension is great and has included 100 members of Congress, major national and
24 Florida editorial boards, Republican Governor Scott of Florida and Governor Baker of

1 Massachusetts, religious leaders and professionals, among many other national and
2 local organizations and other leaders; and

3

4 WHEREAS, TPS recipients must pay \$410 in fees each time they reregister,
5 NOW, THEREFORE,

6

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
8 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

9

10 Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida
11 ("Board"), urges President Donald Trump to instruct DHS to extend Haiti's TPS
12 designation for no less than 18 months beyond its current January 22, 2018, expiration
13 date.

14

15 Section 2. The Board urges Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to recommend to
16 President Trump and to DHS that conditions in Haiti fully warrant that DHS should
17 extend Haiti's TPS designation for no less than 18 months beyond its current
18 January 22, 2018, expiration date.

19

20 Section 3. The Board urges DHS Acting Secretary Elaine Duke to extend
21 Haiti's TPS designation for no less than 18 months beyond its current January 22, 2018,
22 expiration date.

23

24

1 Section 4. The Board authorizes transmission of this Resolution to President
2 Donald J. Trump, White House Chief of Staff John F. Kelly, Secretary of State Rex
3 Tillerson, Acting USDHS Secretary Elaine Duke, Acting USCIS Director James
4 McCament, and the members of the Broward Congressional Delegation.

5
6 Section 5. SEVERABILITY.

7 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any Court to be invalid, the
8 invalid portion shall be stricken, and such striking shall not affect the validity of the
9 remainder of this Resolution. If any Court determines that this Resolution, or any
10 portion hereof, cannot be legally applied to any individual(s), group(s), entity(ies),
11 property(ies), or circumstance(s), such determination shall not affect the applicability
12 hereof to any other individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance.

13
14 Section 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

15 This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

16
17 ADOPTED this 14 day of September, 2017. #70

18
19 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:
Joni Armstrong Coffey, County Attorney

20
21 By /s/ Annika E. Ashton 09/13/17
Annika E. Ashton (date)
22 Assistant County Attorney

23 AEA/dnl
09/13/17
24 Haiti TPS Resolution
#17-008.00
#17-026.09
227528