

Sponsored by: Gonzalez

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION 2021-55**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
MARATHON, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF PEACEFUL PROTESTS FOR  
DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY IN CUBA; AND PROVIDING FOR AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, a historic and remarkable gathering of protests is occurring in Cuba, where everyday Cubans are protesting courageously in demanding democracy, liberty, economic security and access to COVID-19 vaccinations; and

**WHEREAS**, these protests are occurring in a time of great civil discontent in Cuba, where tremendous economic woes combine with a natural desire to be free; and

**WHEREAS**, at the center of these protests is the will of Cubans to be in charge of their own destiny through democracy and free elections; and

**WHEREAS**, the systemic and continued repression of the Cuban people has resulted in a nation where everyday Cubans are not in charge of their own destiny and future; and

**WHEREAS**, as long as free elections are not held in Cuba, the welfare of the Cuban people will continue to be structurally burdened and protests will continue; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cuban regime continues to deprive the people of Cuba of peaceful means to improve their lives and has resulted in everyday Cubans risking their lives and well-being to protest openly to demand immediate change; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Amnesty International, the Cuban regime continues to “clamp down on all forms of dissent, imprisoning political leaders, independent journalists and artists”; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Marathon has a historical and present connection to Cuba; and

**WHEREAS**, Marathon has a unique and cultural connection to Cuba. Generations of Cubans have made the journey, as immigrants and refugees, from Cuba to Marathon for a better life, and today Marathon is home to many Cuban refugees who fled the Castro regime. The contributions of Cuban refugees to Marathon are immense, including civic, economic, entrepreneurial, and cultural contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, that Marathon connection to Cuba continues with many Cuban-Americans in Marathon having active family connections to Cuba through remittances, correspondence to and travel to Cuba to visit and support family. The ties that bind Marathon and Cuba are many and formed out of history and family; and

**WHEREAS**, many citizens of Marathon have come out in strong support of the right of Cubans to be free; and

**WHEREAS**, Marathon is a community that values our best aspirational values of liberty, tolerance and freedom. These are the ideas and values that Cubans march for today; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of Marathon support the right of Cuba to peacefully protest to secure basic civil liberties; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of Marathon stand with the people of Cuba in support of their quest for democracy, liberty and freedom.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THAT:**

**Section 1.** That the City Council of the City of Marathon supports the peaceful protests for democracy and liberty in Cuba.

**Section 2.** That the proper officers of the City of Marathon are hereby authorized to do all things necessary and proper in order to carry out and make effective the provisions of this resolution.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY 2021.**

**THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA**

  
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**Luis Gonzalez, Mayor**

AYES: Bartus, Senmartin, Cook, Gonzalez  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Zieg  
ABSTAIN: None

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hillary Palmer, Deputy City Clerk

(City Seal)

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE  
AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:**

  
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Steve Williams, City Attorney