A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the sense of the Council that the District of Columbia is committed to promoting the human rights and well-being of all its residents, workers, and visitors; and to call on the federal government to do the same.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council Urging the Federal Government to End its Embargo Against Cuba Resolution of 2019.”

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) The District of Columbia has long sought to ensure the equal protection of human rights and well-being for all residents, workers, and visitors in our city.

(2) In February 1903, the United States government coerced Cuba into signing an agreement on coaling and naval stations, enabling the U.S. to occupy Cuban territory in and around Guantanamo Bay for up to 100 years.
(3) In May 1934, the United States government pressured Cuba to sign another
treaty that reaffirmed and extended the U.S.' lease of the territory in and around Guantanamo
Bay for its naval station in perpetuity, or until both parties agreed to terminate the lease.

(4) In 1960, the United States government imposed, via presidential executive
order, an economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba.

(5) Later, in 1993 and 1996, the U.S. Congress passed two bills, Helms-Burton
and the Cuban Democracy Act, which codified and strengthened the embargo.

(6) In 2002, the United States established a military prison, the Guantanamo Bay
Detention Camp, on the premises of the naval base.

(5) Under the Obama administration, an agreement was reached between the U.S.
and Cuba to reestablish diplomatic relations between the two countries.

(6) Despite the executive actions of President Obama, the U.S. embargo continues
to be in place as are restrictions on travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba.

(7) In 2017, the Trump administration altered regulations, eliminating the
individual "people-to-people educational travel" category for U.S. citizens to qualify for a license
from the Treasury Department to travel to Cuba.

(8) Under President Trump, the U.S. has continued to significantly downscale the
diplomatic staff in the U.S. Embassy in Havana.

(9) The United States has, at times, engaged in hostile, aggressive, and sometimes
violent actions against Cuba as part of a regime-change program.

Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that:

(1) We reaffirm the District of Columbia’s status as a guardian of human rights
and our intention to provide equitable opportunities for people from all walks of life by
promoting an inclusive and pluralistic community where everyone is treated with respect. We call on Congress and the President to do the same.

(2) We declare our continuing commitment to our country’s founding principles of freedom and equality, and our intention to defend the safety, dignity, and liberty of all of our residents and all people.

(3) We urge the President and Congress to act expeditiously to end all aspects of the U.S. economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba as well as end all restrictions on travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens.

(4) We implore the President and Congress to quickly cease operations at Guantanamo Bay and stop the U.S. regime-change programs against Cuba.

Sec. 4. The Secretary to the Council shall transmit copies of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Mayor, the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Delegate from the District of Columbia in the United States Congress.

Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.