

Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL FIFE

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE INHUMANE TREATMENT AND DEPORTATION OF HAITIAN ASYLUM-SEEKERS NEAR THE US-MEXICO BORDER BY THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION AND AFFIRMING THE CITY OF OAKLAND'S COMMITMENT TO WELCOMING AND SUPPORTING RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS OF HAITIAN REFUGEES IN OAKLAND.

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2021 a [magnitude 7.2 earthquake](#) hit Haiti, killing more than 2,200 people and injuring and displacing tens of thousands more, adding to the devastation the country continues to experience from the 2010 earthquake that killed over 200,000 people and displaced over a million individuals; and

WHEREAS, the August 14th natural disaster came only a month after the [assassination](#) of Haitian President Jovenel Moïsen on July 7, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the nation of Haiti has faced a myriad of issues stemming from European and American imperialism that has caused economic insecurity, violence, and political upheaval, spurring mass migration to neighboring nations and the United States; and

WHEREAS, nearly [15,000 migrants](#), majority from Haiti, were gathered in an encampment under the Del Rio International Bridge seeking to be processed to enter into the United States living in deplorable conditions and surrounded by armed federal authorities; and

WHEREAS, we saw shocking images of U.S. Border Patrol agents on horseback chasing down Haitian migrants hoping to cross the Rio Grande to enter the United States, for many, evoking the history of how kidnapped Africans experienced terrorism in this country during chattel slavery and Jim Crow; and

WHEREAS, as the Associated Press [reports](#), immigration data indicates that U.S. policy towards Black immigrants has been discriminatory; between 2018 and 2021, less than 5% of Haitian asylum seekers were granted asylum, that is the lowest rate among 83 nationalities; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Administration has used “Title 42”—a policy directive that allows the administration to close its borders and expel those seeking asylum without due process—to deport thousands of Haitian migrants and clearing the Del Rio encampment; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Special Envoy to Haiti, Daniel Foote [resigned](#) from his position stating “I will not be associated with the United States’ inhumane, counterproductive decision to deport thousands of Haitian refugees and illegal immigrants to Haiti;” and

WHEREAS, in a joint [statement](#), the United Nations Human Rights Office, United Nations Refugee Agency, the International Organization for Migration, and the United Nations Children’s Fund have called on countries to stop deporting Haitian migrants without assessing asylum claims citing the various social, economic, and political issues in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland commits itself to being a sanctuary city that stands firmly in defense of human rights and dignity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council declares there is a home here in Oakland for Haitian refugees seeking to rebuild their lives from the insecurity and instability they have experienced; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council condemns the inhumane treatment and deportation of Haitian asylum-seekers near the U.S.-Mexico board by the federal administration and affirms the City of Oakland’s commitment to welcoming and supporting resettlement efforts of Haitian refugees in Oakland; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to Congressional Representatives, Vice President Kamala Harris, and President Joe Biden with a copy of this resolution.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California