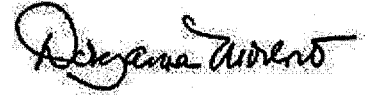


FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

21 OCT -7 PM 3:04

Approved as to Form and Legality



City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 88861 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL FIFE

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**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 14<sup>th</sup> 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: **OCT 19 2021**

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND  
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS **-8**

NOES - **0**

ABSENT - **0**

ABSTENTION - **0**

ATTEST:



ASHA REED  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California