**RESOLUTION NO. R-2012-48**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, URGING PRESIDENT OBAMA TO IMMEDIATELY INSTRUCT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY NAPOLITANO TO INITIATE A HAITIAN FAMILY REUNIFICATION PAROLE PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, on June 14, 2010 the U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted Resolution No. 43 "Urging parole for all Haitian beneficiaries of approved immigrant visa petitions and expedited consideration and approval of all pending immigrant visa petitions"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Obama Administration's Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") has not yet implemented a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program ("FRPP") to expeditiously parole into the United States all or some of the most vulnerable and/or deserving of the now 112,000 Haitian beneficiaries of DHS-approved immigrant visa petitions; and

**WHEREAS**, the facts otherwise stated in Resolution No. 43 remain accurate and the need for action is more urgent than ever given still-dire conditions in Haiti; and

**WHEREAS**, all of the 112,000 approved Haitian beneficiaries, by definition are "legal", will eventually join their families in the United States, but unconscionably remain on a waiting list of nearly three (3) to eleven (11) years in Haiti; and

**WHEREAS**, while waiting in Haiti, the beneficiaries may not survive given life-threatening conditions of extreme poverty, insecurity and misery; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, the Bush Administration created a Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program under which since 2009 alone over 30,000 approved Cuban beneficiaries have been paroled; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Senator John Kerry, respectively chairs of the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees, and nearly one hundred (100) other U.S. Senators and Representatives have urged DHS to create a Haitian FRPP to "mirror" the Cuban program; and

**WHEREAS**, at least fourteen (14) editorial boards have urged this program including the *Miami Herald, Chicago Tribune, Philadelphia Inquirer, Boston Globe, Los Angeles Times, San Antonio Express News, Newsday, Star-Ledger, Palm Beach Post,* and *the Washington Post*; and

**WHEREAS**, Haitian-American leaders nationwide have unanimously and repeatedly urged the White House to heed these calls and to instruct DHS to create a Haitian FRPP, or at least to begin expeditiously paroling into the United States all or some of the most vulnerable and deserving, beginning with all or some of the minor children and spouses of legal permanent residents whose waiting time is nearly three (3) years in Haiti; and

**WHEREAS**, the White House and DHS are aware of this broad support from political, editorial, municipal, and Haitian-American leaders, but so far has failed to act.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA**:

**Section 1.** **Recitals.** The recitals in the whereas clauses are true and correct, and incorporated into this Resolution.

**Section 2.** **Support of Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program.** The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, hereby support the efforts of a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program.

**Section 3.** **Directions to City Clerk.** The City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the United States Congress, our federal elected officials, all United States Representatives and Senators representing the State of Florida as well as the United States Conference of Mayors.

**Section 4.** **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by a 5-0 vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this 10 day of April, 2012.

ANDRE D. PIERRE, ESQ.
MAYOR

ATTEST:

MICHAEL A. ETIENNE, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

REGINE M. MONESTIME
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: CITY ADMINISTRATION

Moved by: Councilman Galvin

Seconded by: Vice Mayor Marcellus

**Vote:**

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|---|---|---|
| Mayor Andre D. Pierre, Esq. | X (Yes) | ____ (No) |
| Vice Mayor Jean R. Marcellus | X (Yes) | ____ (No) |
| Councilperson Michael R. Blynn, Esq. | X (Yes) | ____ (No) |
| Councilperson Scott Galvin | X (Yes) | ____ (No) |
| Councilperson Marie Erlande Steril | X (Yes) | ____ (No) |