RESOLUTION NO. R-2012-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING AND URGING THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION AND IMMIGRATION RELIEF FOR DANIELA AND DANAYA PELAEZ AND OTHERS SIMILARLY SITUATED; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2012, a federal immigration judge ordered sisters, Daniela and Dayana Pelaez, deported to Columbia by the end of March 2012; and

WHEREAS, Daniela Pelaez is the valedictorian at our local school, North Miami Senior High School, with a 6.7 GPA and has resided in Miami since she was four (4) years old; and

WHEREAS, Daniela applied for residency in 2010 and was denied while her father gained residency through her brother who serves in the United States Army and recently finished a tour in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, the deportation order sparked outrage both locally and nationally, and highlights the importance of the Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors (Dream) Act which this City has previously supported over the years; and

WHEREAS, close to three thousand (3,000) students, teachers and community members protested in support of the Pelaez sisters; and

WHEREAS, since the outcry, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will not carry out the deportation order during a two (2) year deferred action under its prosecutorial discretion; and

WHEREAS, Florida legislators, including U.S. Senators Bill Nelson, Marco Rubio and U.S. Representatives Frederica Wilson and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen have advocated on Daniela's behalf; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Miami-Dade Schools, Alberto Carvalho, stated that "as we celebrate this temporary win for her, we must insist on a national dialogue that will at once end the plight of deserving children who live in constant fear of a very uncertain future"; and

WHEREAS, this City has previously supported the Dream Act, which would provide immigration relief to high school students like Daniela Pelaez by allowing her to become a permanent resident; and

WHEREAS, the City supports legislation and legal immigration relief to allow the Pelaez sisters and other similarly situated to gain lawful residency in the United States.

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 Legislation.** The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, hereby support allowing undocumented alien children who would qualify for residency under the DREAM Act as well as legislation that would grant the Palaez sisters to gain lawful residency in the United States.

Section 1. **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 1. **Directions to City Lobbyist.** The Mayor and City Council hereby direct the City's lobbyist to advocate for the immediate passage of the Dream Act.

Section 2. **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: HONORABLE MAYOR ANDRE D. PIERRE, ESQ.

Moved by: Councilman Galvin

Seconded by: Vice Mayor Marcellus

Vote:

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)