



Kate Harrison
Vice Mayor, District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 15, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Vice Mayor Harrison, Councilmember Wengraf and Mayor Arreguín
 Subject: Resolution Supporting Removal of Cuba from the U.S. State Sponsor of Terrorism List

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt resolution supporting removal of Cuba from the U.S. State Sponsor of Terrorism List; and
2. Refer to the City Clerk to send copies of the resolution and letters to Representative Lee and Senators Feinstein and Padilla.

CURRENT SITUATION, EFFECTS, AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Cuba was removed from the State Sponsor of Terrorism list by President Obama in 2015 after an exhaustive review by the State Department and the intelligence community, and the Trump Administration did not cite any new facts to warrant placing Cuba back on the list. The Trump Administration's restrictions limit mutually beneficial dialog and exchange between U.S. and Cuban people, harm small privately owned Cuban businesses, reduce the flow of money and goods to ordinary Cuban people, and limit the flow of necessary humanitarian supplies and equipment. It is in the public interest for the City of Berkeley to join 114 members of Congress in calling on President Biden to reverse the designation.

BACKGROUND

On December 16, 2021, a letter signed by 114 members of Congress, including California Representatives Lee, Swalwell, Lowenthal, Eshoo, Huffman, DeSaulnier, Eshoo, Waters, Bass, Garamendi, Lofgren, Khanna, Jacobs, McNerney, Takano, Thompson, Speier, Matsui, Bera, Sanchez, Chu, Vargas, Roybal-Allard, Porter, Napolitano, Barragan, Porter, and Gomez, requested that the policies of the United States with respect to Cuba be returned to those negotiated and implemented by President Obama.¹

The enclosed resolution provides support for the restoration of relations between the

¹ "McGovern, Meeks, Lee, Rush Lead 114 Members of Congress Calling for Biden Administration to Support Human Rights & Humanitarian Needs in Cuba," December 16, 2021, <https://mcgovern.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398780>

United States and Cuba to those put in place by President Obama with a view of completely ending all U.S. policies and practices aimed at the economic isolation of Cuba.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution
2. Letters

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

City Clerk staff time will be needed to send letters to the City's federal representatives.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Not applicable.

CONTACT PERSON

Vice Mayor Kate Harrison, (510) 981-7140

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUPPORTING REMOVAL OF CUBA FROM THE U.S. STATE SPONSOR OF
TERRORISM LIST

WHEREAS, Cuba was removed from the State Sponsor of Terrorism list by President Obama in 2015 after an exhaustive review by the State Department and the intelligence community, and the Trump Administration did not cite any new facts to warrant placing Cuba back on the list; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's restrictions limit mutually beneficial dialog and exchange between U.S. and Cuban people, harm small privately owned Cuban businesses, reduce the flow of money and goods to ordinary Cuban people, and limit the flow of necessary humanitarian supplies and equipment; and

WHEREAS, a letter to President Biden on December 16, 2021 signed by 114 members of Congress, including California Representatives Lee, Swalwell, Lowenthal, Eshoo, Huffman, DeSaulnier, Eshoo, Waters, Bass, Garamendi, Lofgren, Khanna, Jacobs, McNerney, Takano, Thompson, Speier, Matsui, Bera, Sanchez, Chu, Vargas, Roybal-Allard, Porter, Napolitano, Barragan, Porter, and Gomez, requested that the policies of the United States with respect to Cuba be returned to those negotiated and implemented by President Obama.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it hereby supports the restoration of relations between the United States and Cuba to those put in place by President Obama with a view of completely ending all U.S. policies and practices aimed at the economic isolation of Cuba.

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED that the City Clerk send copies of this resolution and accompanying letters to Representative Lee and Senators Feinstein and Padilla.

The Honorable Senator Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for Removal of Cuba from the U.S. State Sponsor of Terrorism List

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Berkeley City Council would like to convey its urgent support for removing Cuba from the U.S. State Sponsor of Terrorism List.

Cuba was removed from the State Sponsor of Terrorism list by President Obama in 2015 after an exhaustive review by the State Department and the intelligence community, and the Trump Administration did not cite any new facts to warrant placing Cuba back on the list. The Trump Administration's restrictions limit mutually beneficial dialog and exchange between U.S. and Cuban people, harm small privately owned Cuban businesses, reduce the flow of money and goods to ordinary Cuban people, and limit the flow of necessary humanitarian supplies and equipment. It is in the public interest for the City of Berkeley to join 114 members of Congress in calling on President Biden to reverse the designation.

On December 16, 2021, a letter signed by 114 members of Congress, including California Representatives Lee, Swalwell, Lowenthal, Eshoo, Huffman, DeSaulnier, Eshoo, Waters, Bass, Garamendi, Lofgren, Khanna, Jacobs, McNerney, Takano, Thompson, Speier, Matsui, Bera, Sanchez, Chu, Vargas, Roybal-Allard, Porter, Napolitano, Barragan, Porter, and Gomez, requested that the policies of the United States with respect to Cuba be returned to those negotiated and implemented by President Obama.

The enclosed Berkeley City Council resolution provides support for the restoration of relations between the United States and Cuba to those put in place by President Obama with a view of completely ending all U.S. policies and practices aimed at the economic isolation of Cuba.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley City Council

The Honorable Senator Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support of Ukraine, Continued Diplomacy, and Adherence to Constitutional Procedure With Respect to Armed Conflict Amidst Ongoing Tensions

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Berkeley City Council would like to convey its urgent support for removing Cuba from the U.S. State Sponsor of Terrorism List.

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Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley City Council

The Honorable Congresswoman Lee
United States House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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