



City Council Report

915 I Street, 1st Floor

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File ID: 2017-00630

April 25, 2017

Discussion Item 18

Title: Calling an End to the United States' Embargo Against Cuba

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Pass a Resolution calling for an end to the United States' economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Contact: Shoun Thao, Council Representative, (916) 808-7002, Office of Councilmember Allen Wayne Warren, District 2

Presenter: Councilmember Allen Wayne Warren, (916) 808-7002, Office of Council District 2; Councilmember Steve Hansen, (916) 808-7004, Office of Council District 4

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-Resolution

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: As an agricultural powerhouse and as the farm to the fork capital of the world, the City of Sacramento supporting the end of the embargo against Cuba can create new trade and economic opportunity for the region.

Policy Considerations: Not Applicable

Economic Impacts: Not Applicable

Environmental Considerations: Not Applicable

Sustainability: Not Applicable

Commission/Committee Action: Not Applicable

Rationale for Recommendation: By adopting this resolution, the City of Sacramento demonstrates support of national legislation calling for an end to the embargo against Cuba.

Financial Considerations: None

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): None

Background: The 1962 United States Embargo policy has failed to achieve its goals. The embargo has had a negative economic and social effect more on the people of Cuba than the government. The lift of United States embargo against Cuba, will create new opportunity for commerce and trade relations especially in US agriculture.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

CALLING FOR AN END TO THE UNITED STATES' ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA

BACKGROUND

- A. In 1960, the United States government imposed an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.
- B. The U.S. embargo against Cuba continues to inflict hardship on the men, women and children of Cuba by creating shortages of food, medicine, financial and trade opportunities.
- C. On December 17, 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced a new era of relations between the two countries and agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations.
- D. Cuba and the United States re-opened their respective embassies in 2015.
- E. Despite a few changes made by President Obama the U.S. embargo continues to be in place.
- F. The 1996 Helms Burton Act extended the territorial application of the initial embargo to apply to foreign companies trading with Cuba.
- G. 191 countries out of 193 voted at the United Nations General Assembly in October 2015 in favor of lifting the U.S. embargo against Cuba.
- H. The majority of the people of the United States believe this embargo is ineffective, inhumane and in violation of U.S. laws and international conventions.
- I. The embargo denies United States citizens access to Cuban medical technology such as the diabetes drug Heberpot-P, vaccines for meningitis B and hepatitis B, monoclonal antibodies for kidney transplants, as well as the only therapeutic vaccine in the world against advanced lung cancer, called CIMA V AX-EGF.

**BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1. The City Council of the City of Sacramento hereby calls for an immediate end to the United States' economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.
- Section 2. The Mayor and City Council of the City of Sacramento supports the following Bills in Congress: 1) The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2017 (H.R. 351), introduced by Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC 1st) and Rep. James McGovern (D-MA 2nd); 2) The Cuba Trade Act of 2017 (H.R. 442), introduced by Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN 6th); 3) The Cuba Agricultural Exports Act (H.R. 525), introduced by Rep. Eric A. Crawford (R-AK-1st); and strongly encourages Representative Doris Matsui to join the list of co-sponsors for all four bills.
- Section 3. The Mayor and City Council of the City of Sacramento supports the following Bills in the Senate: 1) The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015 (S.299), introduced by Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ), language of which is identical to H.R. 351, 2) The Agricultural Export Expansion Act of 2017 (S.275), introduced by Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND); 3) Cuba Trade Act of 2017, introduced by Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS); 4) Cuba DATA Act (S.1389), introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM); and strongly encourages Senators Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein to join the list of co-sponsors of both bills.
- Section 4. The Mayor and City Council of the City of Sacramento directs the City Clerk to send copies of this resolution to Representative Matsui and Senators Harris and Feinstein.