

RESOLUTION NO. 23-16

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA
CALLING FOR AN END TO THE UNITED STATES' ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL
AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA**

WHEREAS, in 1960, the United States government imposed an economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. embargo against Cuba continues to inflict hardship on the men, women and children of Cuba by creating shortages of food, medicines and financial and trade opportunities; and

WHEREAS, 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 re-establish diplomatic relations; and

WHEREAS, Cuba and the United States re-opened their respective embassies in 2015; and

WHEREAS, despite a few changes made by President Obama the U.S. embargo continues to be in place; and

WHEREAS the 1996 Helms Burton Act extended the territorial application of the initial embargo to apply to foreign companies trading with Cuba; and

WHEREAS, 191 countries voted at the United Nations General Assembly in October 2015 in favor of lifting the U.S. embargo against Cuba, with only two countries — the United States and Israel — opposed; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, in November 2015 the Mayor of Richmond Tom Butt and Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin issued and presented a proclamation to welcome Ms. Kenia Serrano, President of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, who emphasized that Cuba's number one priority is the end of the US Embargo; and

WHEREAS, 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 CIMAVAX-EGF; and

WHEREAS since 1999 the city of Richmond has had a Sister City relationship with the City of Regla in Cuba;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Richmond hereby calls for an immediate end to the United States' economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Richmond supports the following Bills in Congress: 1) the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015 (HR664), introduced by Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC 1st) and Rep. James McGovern (D-MA 2nd), 2) The Cuba Trade Act of 2015 (HR3238), introduced by Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN 6th) and Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL 14th), and strongly encourages Representative Mark DeSaulnier to join the list of co-sponsors of both bills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Richmond supports the following Bills in the Senate: 1) The Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2015 (S299), introduced by Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), language of which is identical to HR664, 2) The Freedom to Export to Cuba Act (S491), introduced by Senator

Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and strongly encourages Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to join the list of co-sponsors of both bills; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Richmond directs the City Manager to send copies of this resolution to Representative DeSaulnier and Senators Boxer and Feinstein.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held March 1, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, McLaughlin, Myrick, Vice Mayor Martinez, and Mayor Butt.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: Councilmember Pimplé.

ABSENT: None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

TOM BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 23-16**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on March 1, 2016.


Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond