

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-R-122

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, CONDEMNING THE HATEFUL, RACIST, AND ANTI-IMMIGRANT COMMENTS TARGETING THE HAITIAN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY IN SPRINGFIELD, OHIO; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of North Miami ("City") is committed to ending the spread of hate, bigotry, and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected characteristic as defined by law; and

WHEREAS, unfounded, racist, and hateful statements have been made and are circulating regarding Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Springfield Mayor, City Manager, and Chief of Police have denounced these statements as false; and

WHEREAS, public figures, including a candidate for the presidency of the United States, continue to spread these false allegations; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the widespread circulation of these comments, the nearly 20,000 Haitians who legally live and work in Springfield have been harassed, threatened with bombs, and now fear for their lives; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the widespread circulation of the comments, Springfield City Hall, several schools, and state motor vehicle offices in Springfield were forced to evacuate after receiving bomb threats; and

WHEREAS, additionally, two colleges in Springfield were forced to hold classes virtually due to threats targeted toward members of the Haitian Community; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Governor, Mike DeWine, has denounced the debunked rumors that spread online before being amplified on national television and announced enhanced security

measures including the stationing of dozens of members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol in city schools, use of security cameras, and the use of bomb-sniffing dog; and

WHEREAS, attempts to make newly arrived migrants the target of racism, marginalization, and violence has historically plagued the United States; and

WHEREAS, anti-immigrant violence is on the rise, with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) reporting a 0.95-percent increase in hate crimes against individuals for 2019 compared to 2018 and an observed shift in crimes against individuals as opposed to property.

WHEREAS, the FBI data shows that the vast majority of the reported hate crimes are related to race, ethnicity, or ancestry; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) data shows that non-U.S. citizens are victimized at a rate of approximately 12.5 victims per 1,000 non-U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, the disinformation, misinformation, and online conspiracy theories are spreading and inspiring real-world violence in the small community of Springfield, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, as a community with a large Haitian immigrant population, the City of North Miami stands in solidarity with the City of Springfield; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of our communities is beneficial to all within it, making us stronger more resilient; and

WHEREAS, each of our elected leaders has the ability and obligation to promote inclusiveness; celebrate diversity; work to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society; prevent the spread of misinformation and disinformation; and reject hate and bias in all forms and should set a positive example for their constituents in this regard; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council condemn the false statements circulating in regard to the Haitian community in Springfield, Ohio, and call for peace, unity, and support for the citizens of Springfield who have been negatively impacted by the widespread circulation of these comments on the mainstream media; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council urge the residents to join us by adopting these values in their own lives, calling attention to these harms, and denouncing hate and extremism to help keep us all safe.


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

Section 1. **Affirmation.** The Mayor and City Council hereby affirm its ongoing commitment to cultivating an inclusive, safe, and just society and culture that values the diversity of our community, works to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society, and celebrates both our individuality and commonality.


Section 2. **Condemn.** The Mayor and City Council hereby condemn the false statements circulating regarding the Haitian community in Springfield, Ohio, and call for peace, unity, and support for the citizens of Springfield.

Section 3. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a 5 - 0 vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this 24th day of September, 2024.


ALIX DESULME, ED.D.
MAYOR

ATTEST :



VANESSA JOSEPH, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JEFF P. H. CAZEAU, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR DESULME

Moved by: Charles

Seconded by: Desulme

Vote:

Mayor Alix Desulme, Ed.D.

X (Yes) (No)

Vice Mayor Mary Estimé-Irvin

X (Yes) (No)

Councilman Scott Galvin

X (Yes) (No)

Councilwoman Kassandra Timothe, MPA

X (Yes) (No)

Councilman Pierre Frantz Charles, M.Ed.

X (Yes) (No)