



Kate Harrison
Councilmember, District 4

RECEIVED AT
COUNCIL MEETING OF:

MAY 14 2019

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY OF BERKELEY

REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL

Meeting Date: May 14th, 2019

Item Number: 57

Item Description: Resolution: No U.S. Intervention in Venezuela

Submitted by: Councilmember Harrison

Changes made in consultation with members of the Peace and Justice Commission following comments from the April 30th Council meeting. Removes mentions of Maduro and of sanctions from the United States to clarify that this is an anti-intervention resolution.

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

NO U.S. INTERVENTION IN VENEZUELA

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070); and

WHEREAS, Trump administration officials have openly declared their intention to overthrow the duly elected ~~militarily intervene in the government of Venezuela~~ President Nicolás Maduro,¹ have urged the Venezuelan military to overthrow the Maduro government, has recognized a self-appointed opposition politician as president and vetoed any possibility of dialogue despite the efforts of Maduro, the governments of Venezuela, Mexico, and Uruguay, and Pope Francis; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has tightened illegal-unilateral economic sanctions,² including the seizure of Venezuela's oil properties and bank accounts in the United States and financial sanctions that prevent Venezuela from producing its oil or securing credit or refinancing debt, thereby increasing the hardship on the people of Venezuela by preventing them from accessing imported foods and medicines, while hypocritically seeking to promote a military confrontation by forcing truckloads of aid across the Brazilian and Colombian borders;³ and

~~WHEREAS these unilateral sanctions are in violation of the UN and OAS⁴ Charters; and~~

WHEREAS, the U.S. has historically used its economic power to destabilize independent-minded countries, most famously Chile in the early 1970's, making the economy "scream,"⁵ as well as Nicaragua in the 1980's, and then using the peoples' economic misery as a pretext for military intervention;⁶ and

WHEREAS, Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world, and leading administration foreign policy officials have made clear the Trump administration's intention to turn Venezuela's oil over to U.S oil companies for exploitation;⁷ and

WHEREAS, Elliott Abrams has been named President Trump's Special Envoy to Venezuela, and is notorious for his central role in the 1980's as a top advisor to Presidents Reagan and Bush in the Iran-Contra scandal, which led to his conviction on criminal charges, and the arming of the Nicaraguan contras, the Salvadoran death squad government, and the genocidal regime in Guatemala responsible for the massacres of hundreds of thousands of indigenous people in that country;⁸ and

WHEREAS, the U.S. campaign of regime change in Venezuela is in violation of international law,⁹ against the interests of the people of Venezuela and the people of the United States;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley affirms the sovereign right of the Venezuelan people to negotiate their political differences free

from foreign intervention, and urges that the U.S. government withdraw its illegal, unilateral financial sanctions and refrain from military, or diplomatic intervention in the internal affairs of the sovereign state of Venezuela; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley requests the City Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, President Trump, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.