

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, ARROYO, BOK, BREADON, EDWARDS, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLAHERTY, LARA, MEJIA, MURPHY, WORRELL AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO CEASE DEPORTATIONS OF HAITIAN MIGRANTS UNDER TITLE 42

- WHEREAS,** Boston is home to the third largest Haitian diaspora in the United States, a diaspora that has been making Boston its home since the 1960s and contributes to the workforce, economy, and cultural vibrancy of the city; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On March 25, 2020 the Trump Administration initiated a deportation policy under a public health law that restricts immigration at the United States-Mexican border based on an unlawful invocation of the Public Health Act under Title 42 of the U.S Code (“Title 42”) in violation of U.S. constitutional law and international law; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Biden Administration has continued the immigration policies of the Trump Administration, further ramping up deportations, leading to mass expulsions of Haitians under Title 42; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Haitian migrants are unable to make claims for asylum as required under U.S. law and international law. Consequently, the actions of the Biden administration violate U.S. and international laws against returning migrants to persecution and torture; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In early September 2021, images revealed the inhumane treatment of Haitian migrants at the hands of U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents who, mounted on horseback, used the hides of their whips to violently chase Haitian migrants, a cruel reminder of slavery and the anti-Blackness embedded in this country’s immigration policy; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On September 24, 2021, Haitian community leaders in Boston organized a protest in front of the John F. Kennedy Federal Building denouncing the deportations of Haitian migrants and the inhumane treatment by border officials. Nearly all members of the Boston City Council were present and spoke in support of Boston’s Haitian community; *and*

WHEREAS, The deportations under the guise of Title 42 have only escalated, with the U.S. government deporting nearly 14,000 Haitian migrants since September 2021, totaling more than 17,000 Haitian migrants deported to Haiti since the beginning of the Biden Administration; *and*

WHEREAS, On Thursday, February 3, 2022, during Black History Month, the Biden Administration chose to extend its practices of deportation under Title 42, despite widespread opposition from human rights groups, public health officials, elected officials, and asylum advocates; *and*

WHEREAS, Migrants are forced to return to a Haiti rife with political, social, and economic instability and are often at a greater risk of kidnappings, abuse, and violence. The United States government recognizes the risk in Haiti as the State Department's travel advisory to U.S. citizens regarding travel currently states "Do not travel to Haiti due to kidnapping, crime, civil unrest, and COVID-19"; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has long served as a place of refuge for a diverse array of immigrants who comprise this city—whether fleeing persecution or terror, escaping gender-based violence, seeking reunion with family members, or pursuing economic opportunity; *and*

WHEREAS, This country has a legal and moral obligation under its own laws, and international laws and treaties, to receive migrants in distress in search of relief and refuge, thus measures restricting access to asylum must not be allowed under the guise of public health; *and*

WHEREAS, President Biden has expressed his commitment to reverse Trump-era immigration policies and build a humane immigration system; *and*

WHEREAS, We have an obligation as the Boston City Council to ensure that we have a government committed to justice, prosperity, and dignity for all people, including Haitian migrants seeking refuge; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT;**

RESOLVED, That the Boston City Council calls on the Biden Administration to cease use of Title 42 and immediately halt the deportation of Haitian immigrants and all migrants, thereby allowing them to seek due process through our legal system to make claims for legal status.

Filed in Council: February 16, 2022