



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
March 8, 2022

ITEM TITLE:

A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, urging cruise lines and airlines to immediately cease all travel to Russia due to Russia's unprovoked military attack on Ukraine. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

BRIEF HISTORY:

On February 23, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a "special military operation" in the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine and shortly after the announcement, Russia began attacking Ukraine on multiple fronts—including the capital Kyiv, western cities such as Lviv and the southern city of Kherson—from the land, air and sea. This attack is the latest development in the years-long aggression waged by Russia against Ukraine, which has been at war with Russia since 2014, when Putin invaded the Crimea region.

To date, hundreds of civilians have been reported dead, air strikes have targeted major cities and residential areas in Ukraine, and an estimated 660,000 refugees have fled to neighboring countries. Despite sustaining many civilian casualties, the Ukrainian military and citizen-forces have met Russian troops with strong and courageous opposition.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine has also been met with widespread international condemnation, including from United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, who asserted the Russian military offensive violates the UN Charter, and the European Union, which issued a statement strongly condemning the "unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by armed forces of the Russian Federation", and called it a violation of international law. The United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom and others have announced significant economic sanctions on Russia and coordinated efforts to freeze Russian assets overseas and cripple Russia's major banking institutions.

In addition to existing sanctions, the City Commission supports the suspension of all travel to Russia via cruise lines and airlines which would impact Russia's economy and travel and tourism industries. The City Commission has consistently used its public platform to speak out in support of international peace and security and in opposition to unjustified military aggression by and between nations. The City Commission further believes all people, including the Ukrainian people, have a right to democracy and to live in peace and freedom.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Draft Resolution

