

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-98

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, URGING CARNIVAL CORPORATION TO RECONSIDER ITS NEW CRUISE ROUTE TO CUBA, GIVEN THAT CUBA DOES NOT ALLOW CUBAN-BORN PERSONS TO TRAVEL TO THE ISLAND BY SEA VESSEL, AND URGING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW IF THIS VIOLATES STATE AND FEDERAL LAW AND URGING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO REVIEW DENYING CARNIVAL CORPORATION ACCESS TO AND USE OF THE PORT OF MIAMI FOR ANY CRUISES WHERE NATIONAL ORIGIN DISCRIMINATION OCCURS.

WHEREAS, Carnival Corporation has announced that, on May 1, 2016, it will begin sailing to Cuba from the Port of Miami; and

WHEREAS, Cuba does not allow Cuban-born individuals living in the United States and elsewhere to travel to the island by sea vessel; and

WHEREAS, this prohibition, imposed by the Cuban government, results in Cuban-born, United States citizens and residents not being allowed to purchase tickets for this Carnival cruise route; and

WHEREAS, many Cuban-born, United States citizens and residents live in Coral Gables and travel through the Port of Miami; and

WHEREAS, United States law generally prohibits discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, color, religion and national origin; and

WHEREAS, for example, 42 U.S.C. 2000, specifically prohibits discrimination in “places of public accommodation” based on race, color, religion and national origin and defines a “place of public accommodation” as any establishment which provides lodging to transient guests – a definition which would include a cruise ship; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables Commission feels strongly that Carnival Corporation should not offer the Miami-Cuba route where a regulation set by the Cuban government has the result of discriminating against United States citizens and residents, born on the island of Cuba, based on national origin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables Commission feels strongly that if Carnival Corporation does not reconsider and stop the Miami-Cuba route while these discriminatory regulations are in effect, that Miami-Dade County, the State of Florida and the United States government should review whether such action violates state and federal law, and whether Miami-Dade County may prohibit use of the Port of Miami for this route until the discriminatory regulation is removed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:

SECTION 1. The foregoing “Whereas” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission hereby urges Carnival Corporation to cancel its Miami-Cuba route until the discriminatory regulation based on national origin is removed. In the event that Carnival Corporation does not do so, the Commission urges Miami-Dade County, the State of Florida and the United States government to review whether such action violates state and federal law. The Commission further urges Miami-Dade County to review whether it may deny Carnival Corporation access to and use of the Port of Miami for this route until such national origin discrimination stops.

SECTION 3. That a copy of this Resolution be sent to federal and state elected officials representing the City of Coral Gables, as well as the Mayor and Board of County Commissioners for Miami-Dade County.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWELFTH DAY OF APRIL, A.D., 2016.

(Moved: Keon / Seconded: Quesada)

(Yeas: Slesnick, Keon, Lago, Quesada, Cason)

(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)

(Non-Agenda Item)

APPROVED:



JIM CASON
MAYOR

ATTEST:



WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



CRAIG E. LEEN
CITY ATTORNEY