

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 354

EFFECTIVE ~~XXXXXX~~ JULY 27, 2009

WHEREAS, On June 28, 2009, members of the Honduran military awoke President José Manuel Zelaya at gunpoint and forcibly removed him from his residence and exiled him to Costa Rica; and

WHEREAS, The following day, the speaker of the Honduran Parliament, Roberto Micheletti, was sworn in as President of Honduras by the National Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Although the *de facto* military government has qualified these events as legal, they have clearly been defined as a military coup by the entire international community, recalling the region's history of violent takeovers from the 1960s through the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, The most recent *coup d'état* represents a new and disturbing model for overthrowing a democratically elected government in Latin America; and

WHEREAS, The Organization of American States (OAS), which is comprised of all 35 sovereign countries in North and South America, adopted a resolution on July 1, 2009 condemning the *coup d'état* in Honduras, and on July 4, 2009 adopted a resolution suspending Honduras' participation in the OAS; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on June 30, 2009 which condemned the coup and emphasized that the United Nations will not recognize any government other than that of President Zelaya's; and

WHEREAS, Leaders from North and South America, as well as nations around the world, have rejected the military ouster of President Zelaya; and

WHEREAS, The forced removal and expulsion of a democratically elected president threatens democracy and stability, not only in Honduras and the region, but everywhere; and

WHEREAS, President Zelaya was striving for direct participatory democracy through a non-binding "public consultation," permitted under the Honduran Constitution, to ask voters if they wanted to establish an elected National Constituent Assembly to craft a new Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Despite popular media reports, neither the poll, nor the work of any potential National Constituent Assembly would have permitted President Zelaya to remain in office beyond the end of his term in January 2010; and

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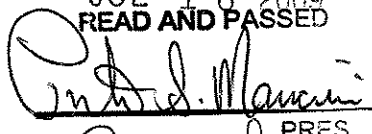

WHEREAS, Participatory democracy gives citizens a direct voice in the operation of their government, and such engagement is a laudable goal that should be considered locally, nationally, and internationally, and

WHEREAS, Diplomatic efforts to date have been unsuccessful in bringing resolution to the crisis in Honduras.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence, Rhode Island does hereby:

- 1) Join the Organization of American States, the United Nations General Assembly, and leaders throughout the world in condemning the June 28, 2009 *coup d'état* in Honduras;
- 2) Call for the immediate reinstatement of President Manuel Zelaya for the remainder of his elected term;
- 3) Urge the United States Government to suspend all aid to the de facto Honduran government until President Zelaya is reinstated; and
- 4) Express its support for participatory democracy for citizens of every country, as well as for smaller-scale participatory democracy at the municipal level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon adoption, a certified copy of this resolution shall be sent to the President of the United States; the United States Secretary of State; and the Rhode Island Congressional delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JUL 16 2009  
READ AND PASSED  
  
PRES.  
  
CLERK

Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature:

  
Anna M. Stetson  
City Clerk