



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

Res 31897

Record No.: Res 31897

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 1

Ord. no:

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 07/30/2019

Final Action: 08/12/2019

Title: A RESOLUTION calling for an end to the U.S. government's economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba.

Date

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors: Mosqueda

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Drafter: patrick.wigren@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

Yes

No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Clerk	07/30/2019	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office						
1	Council President's Office	08/01/2019	sent for review	City Council			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the City Council						
1	City Council	08/12/2019	referred	City Council			
	Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was referred. to the City Council						
1	City Council	08/12/2019	adopted				Pass
	Action Text: The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) was adopted by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:						
	Notes: Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31897.						
	In Favor: 8 Councilmember Bagshaw, Council President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Pacheco, Councilmember Sawant						
	Opposed: 0						

Legislative Summary Continued (Res 31897)

1 City Clerk 08/12/2019 attested by City Clerk
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk.

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 31897

1
2
3
4 A RESOLUTION calling for an end to the U.S. government's economic, commercial, and
5 financial embargo against Cuba.

6
7 WHEREAS, in 1960, the U.S. government imposed an economic, commercial, and financial
8 embargo against Cuba; and

9 WHEREAS, the U.S. embargo against Cuba continues to inflict hardship on the men, women,
10 and children of Cuba by creating shortages of food, medicine, and financial and trade
11 opportunities; and

12 WHEREAS, on December 17, 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul
13 Castro announced a new era of relations between the two countries and agreed to re-
14 establish diplomatic relations; and

15 WHEREAS, Cuba and the U.S. reopened their respective embassies in 2015; and

16 WHEREAS, despite some changes made by President Obama, the U.S. embargo continues to be
17 in place; and

18 WHEREAS, the 1996 Helms-Burton Act extended the territorial application of the initial
19 embargo to apply to foreign companies trading with Cuba, and the current U.S.
20 administration has taken backward steps to harshen the embargo and return U.S.-Cuba
21 relations to the era of the Cold War; and

22 WHEREAS, 189 countries voted at the United Nations General Assembly in November 2018 in
23 favor of lifting the U.S. embargo against Cuba, with only two countries—the U.S. and
24 Israel—opposing the resolution; and

1 WHEREAS, the majority of the people in the U.S. believe the embargo is ineffective, inhumane,
2 and in violation of U.S. laws and international conventions; and

3 WHEREAS, in one year, the economic damage to Cuba mounted to \$ 4,321,200,000 dollars; and

4 WHEREAS, despite the lack of governmental diplomatic relations, organizations such as the
5 Seattle-based U.S. Women and Cuba Collaboration, organized by local labor and civil
6 rights leader Cindy Domingo, and the Seattle-Cuba Friendship Committee, have been
7 working on people-to-people diplomacy to create cross national learning opportunities
8 rooted in the concepts of universal human rights, racial and economic justice, and
9 women's rights; and

10 WHEREAS, the U.S. blockade inhibits the free travel of U.S. people to Cuba, and, therefore,
11 hinders the ability to forge people-to-people ties between our residents; and

12 WHEREAS, 142,721 people traveled from the U.S. on cruise ships in the first four months of
13 2019, but as of June 5 no one is able to travel on these ships under the most popular
14 "People to People" travel license; and

15 WHEREAS, despite the U.S. embargo, Cuba has achieved some of the highest literacy rates in
16 the world (> 99 percent), guaranteed access to early learning, prenatal care, and long-term
17 care resulting in life expectancy rates of more than 79 years, infant mortality rates as low
18 as 0.4 percent, and better health outcomes than many Western countries, including the
19 U.S.; and

20 WHEREAS, the embargo denies U.S. citizens access to Cuban medical technology such as the
21 diabetes drug Heberprot-P, vaccines for meningitis B and hepatitis B, monoclonal
22 antibodies for kidney transplants, as well as the only therapeutic vaccine in the world
23 against advanced lung cancer, called CIMAVax-EGF; and

1 WHEREAS, 11 cities across the country have called for an end to the embargo; NOW,

2 THEREFORE,

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THAT:**

4 Section 1. The City Council calls for an immediate end to the U.S. government's
5 economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba, including restrictions on travel to
6 Cuba by U.S. citizens.

7 Section 2. The City Council urges President Trump to renew engagement of negotiations
8 with the Cuban government as initiated by the policy of past administrations to build a new,
9 cooperative relationship between the United States and Cuba; reestablish the full diplomatic
10 staffing of the U.S. Embassy in Havana; and all full diplomatic staffing at the Cuban Embassy in
11 Washington, D.C.

12 Section 3. The City Council urges Congress to pass legislation that would completely
13 repeal the blockade and travel ban regarding Cuba, including the recently introduced H.R. 3960
14 and the Senate companion bipartisan bill that would end the Cuba travel ban.

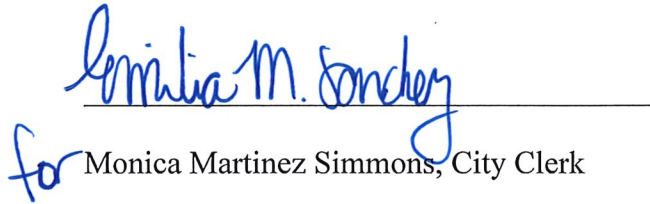
15 Section 4. The City Council requests that the Office of Intergovernmental Relations
16 deliver copies of this resolution, upon adoption, to President Trump, Senators Patty Murray and
17 Maria Cantwell, and Representatives Pramila Jayapal and Adam Smith.

1 Adopted by the City Council the 12th day of August, 2019,
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 12th day of
3 August, 2019.

4 

5 President _____ of the City Council

6 Filed by me this 12th day of August, 2019.

7 
8 for Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

9 (Seal)