

RESOLUTION NO. 38-20

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA,
SUPPORTING UNITED STATES – CUBA COLLABORATION
IN FIGHTING COVID-19**

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a pandemic that has negatively impacted the entire world by infecting millions of people, causing many states to issue shelter-in-place orders that has resulted in countless others losing their jobs or otherwise putting their lives on hold, and creating a world of social distancing to stop the spread of coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, the onset of COVID-19 has overwhelmed hospitals, which has led to a lack of necessary supplies, safety precautions, and medical professionals; and

WHEREAS, Cuba has access to important medical expertise that can aid other countries in the fight against COVID-19, and this is a time that calls for international solidarity and cooperation, as we are all impacted; and

WHEREAS, Cuba has access to Interferon Alfa 2B Recombinant (IFNrec), which has shown promising results against COVID-19 and may be a crucial component in finding a cure, treatment, or vaccine; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America currently has placed restrictions on access to Cuban goods and knowledge, which means that IFNrec cannot be imported to the United States in an effort to combat COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, according to Jorge Hidalgo, director of the Cuban Central Unit for Medical Collaboration, more than 800 Cuban medical personnel have traveled to 18 different countries to provide aid to countries stricken with COVID-19, with more medical missions being dispatched in the coming weeks; and

WHEREAS, millions of people are being affected by this virus, and all countries should be working together for a health issue that transcends borders; and

WHEREAS, taking all necessary actions to stop the spread of COVID-19 is the responsibility of all individuals and communities, including the City of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond, CA USA-Regla, Cuba Friendship Committee urges the lifting of the restrictions on access to medical expertise, including the importation of IFNrec.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Richmond, California supports not only the lift of restrictions on Interferon Alfa 2B Recombinant from Cuba, but also medical collaboration between the United States of America and Cuba in the fight against COVID-19.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held May 5, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Myrick, Willis,
Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

TOM BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

RACHEL SOMMOVILLA
City Attorney (Interim)

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 38-20**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on May 5, 2020.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond