

Resolution: 2022-01

**Introduced By: Councilor Natacha Clerger
February 28, 2022**

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO CEASE
DEPORTATIONS OF HAITIAN MIGRANTS UNDER TITLE 42**

WHEREAS, Greater Boston is home to the third largest Haitian diaspora in the United States, a diaspora that has been making this area its home since the 1960s and that contributes to the workforce, economy, and cultural vibrancy of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Randolph is proud to be home to a significant proportion of those Haitian or Haitian-American residents; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020 the Trump Administration initiated a deportation policy under a public health law that restricts immigration at the United States-Mexican border based on an unlawful invocation of the Public Health Act under Title 42 of the U.S Code (“Title 42”) in violation of U.S. constitutional law and international law; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has continued the immigration policies of the Trump Administration, further ramping up deportations, leading to mass expulsions of Haitians under Title 42; and

WHEREAS, Haitian migrants are unable to make claims for asylum as required under U.S. law and international law. Consequently, the actions of the Biden administration violate U.S. and international laws against returning migrants to persecution and torture; and

WHEREAS, in early September 2021, images revealed the inhumane treatment of Haitian migrants at the hands of U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents who, mounted on horseback, used the hides of their whips to violently chase Haitian migrants, a cruel reminder of slavery and the anti-Blackness embedded in this country’s immigration policy; and

WHEREAS, the deportations under the guise of Title 42 have only escalated, with the U.S. government deporting nearly 14,000 Haitian migrants since September 2021, totaling more than 17,000 Haitian migrants deported to Haiti since the beginning of the Biden Administration; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, February 3, 2022, during Black History Month, the Biden Administration chose to extend its practices of deportation under Title 42, despite widespread opposition from human rights groups, public health officials, elected officials, and asylum advocates; and

WHEREAS, migrants are forced to return to a Haiti rife with political, social, and economic instability and are often at a greater risk of kidnappings, abuse, and violence. The United States government recognizes the risk in Haiti as the State Department’s travel advisory to U.S. citizens regarding travel currently states “Do not travel to Haiti due to kidnapping, crime, civil unrest, and COVID-19;” and

WHEREAS, this country has a legal and moral obligation under its own laws, and international laws and treaties, to receive migrants in distress in search of relief and refuge, thus measures restricting access to asylum must not be allowed under the guise of public health; and

WHEREAS, President Biden has expressed his commitment to reverse Trump-era immigration policies and build a humane immigration system; and

WHEREAS, we have an obligation as the Randolph Town Council to ensure that we have a government committed to justice, prosperity and dignity for all people, including Haitian migrants seeking refuge;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Randolph Town Council calls on the Biden Administration to cease use of Title 42 and immediately halt the deportation of Haitian immigrants and all migrants, thereby allowing them to seek due process through our legal system to make claims for legal status.