

Resolution: 2024-001

**Introduced By: Council President Alexopoulos,
on behalf of the Randolph Town Council
October 7, 2024**

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HAITI AND HAITIAN AMERICANS

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, our Congressional District is home to the largest Haitian population east of Springfield Ohio, and our U.S. Representative is accordingly co-chair of the Congressional Haiti Caucus; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Randolph is home to the highest density of Haitians in the Boston area, including many of our friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the people of Randolph appreciate and benefit from the contributions of our Haitian neighbors, including their involvement in the business community, the spiritual community and other social and community groups and organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph Town Council has long-supported local welcoming of our Haitian neighbors by publishing critical Town literature in Haitian Creole, and has supported the Commonwealth in doing the same on election ballots in our Home Rule Petition H.4049; and

WHEREAS, the country of Haiti has suffered a series of devastating events, including an earthquake on August 14, 2021, which left an estimated 650,000 people in need of immediate humanitarian assistance and, days later, a deadly hurricane; and

WHEREAS, the earthquake and the hurricane struck at a time of political and social upheaval caused by the assassination of Haiti's President on July 7, 2021 and by the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, as the result of the devastating earthquake and hurricane, the political and social upheaval, and the dangerous conditions that have resulted, many Haitians have fled their home country to seek shelter elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, thousands of refugees from Haiti have sought entry into the United States seeking aid, protection and asylum; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of these events, false reports have been circulating in the national media concerning Haitians and Haitian migrants; and

WHEREAS, the circulation of false information about immigrant groups is grounded in xenophobia, intolerance and hatred; 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, by the Randolph Town Council that:

1. The Randolph Town Council supports the Haitian community and recognizes the many contributions that Haitians and Haitian Americans have made to Randolph and to the United States.
2. The Randolph Town Council stands in solidarity with our Haitian neighbors and proclaims that the people of Randolph stand in support with our Haitian neighbors.
3. The civil rights and human rights of all migrants and refugees should be recognized and protected as part of a humane and just immigration policy.
4. The Randolph Town Council supports statewide and national initiatives such as Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for those from nations experiencing conditions that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately, as Haiti is at this time.
5. Dehumanizing Haitians, Haitian Americans, or any group of immigrants with false reports of deplorable behavior is unacceptable and is inconsistent with our values as a community.
6. We call on our neighbors, and on all Americans nationwide, to speak the truth about Haitians, instead of spreading hateful lies, and to foster acceptance and understanding in our homes, in our schools and in our communities, and to reject xenophobia and hatred.
7. The Town Council joins with others and universally condemns these actions.