

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, URGING PRESIDENT
RAUL CASTRO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA TO
RELEASE ALAN GROSS FROM PRISON AND RETURN
HIM TO HIS FAMILY AND HOME IN THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA; PROVIDING FOR AN
EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the islands of Key West and Cuba are geographically close, sharing a long history and inseparable cultures; and

WHEREAS, the ties that bind Key West with Cuba have always existed above and beyond national or international politics; and

WHEREAS, Alan Gross, a civilian working as a subcontractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), was hired in 2009 to participate in a project in Cuba which was intended to improve wireless access for small communities in Cuba and increase information flows to and from the island; and

WHEREAS, over the course of five trips to Cuba under a tourist visa in 2009, Gross installed wireless networks as directed and funded through USAID's program; and

WHEREAS, in December, 2009, the government of Cuba arrested Gross, and in February, 2011, he was charged with "Acts against the Independence and Territorial Integrity of the

State;" and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2011 Gross was sentenced to 15 years in prison, and the Supreme Court of Cuba subsequently affirmed the sentence on appeal a few months later; and

WHEREAS, former President Jimmy Carter as well as several members of Congress have visited Cuba to see Gross and plead with the Cuban Government for Alan's release on humanitarian grounds; and

WHEREAS, Alan Gross' health has deteriorated rapidly during the term of his imprisonment and his family fears that he will be unable to survive the remaining years of his sentence; and

WHEREAS, Alan Gross' family, including his wife of 43 years, Judy, and his two daughters, Shira and Nina, constantly plead for his safe and swift release.

WHEREAS, Alan Gross' mother is suffering from inoperable lung cancer and deserves to have her son at her side as she reflects on the struggles and triumphs of her family during her lifetime; and

WHEREAS, on May 2nd, Alan Gross turned 65. After recently completing a nine day hunger strike Gross stated that this will be the last birthday he has in a Cuban prison intimating that unless released he will likely die in prison before reaching the age of 66; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban Government's release of Alan Gross would serve to demonstrate to the World that Cuba can be strong while simultaneously showing the compassion and grace that marks enlightened societies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That President Raul Castro and the Government of Cuba is urged to immediately release Alan Gross from prison and return him to his family and home in the United States of America.

Section 2: As representatives of your sister island, the City Commission of the City of Key West implores the Cuban Government to release Mr. Gross as an act of good faith that rises above political philosophies and agendas.

Section 3: That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to transmit certified copies of this Resolution to President Raul Castro, and other pertinent officials within the Governments of Cuba and the United States.

Section 4: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held
this _____ day of _____, 2014.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the
Commission on _____ day of _____, 2014.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2014.

Mayor Craig Cates	_____
Vice Mayor Mark Rossi	_____
Commissioner Teri Johnston	_____
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____
Commissioner Tony Yaniz	_____

CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK