

09/29/2022

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 2:14 pm, Oct 20, 2022

To: Department of Homeland Security
Attention: The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
MS 0525
Washington, DC 20525-0525


In Reference: City of Tamarac Resolution R-2022-110

Dear Sir:

Please find attached a copy of Resolution R-2022-110, passed by the City Commission of the City of Tamarac, where the City Commission urges the Biden Administration to extend the temporary protected status ("TPS") designation for Hondurans and to declare a new initial TPS designation date for Hondurans.

I, thank you for your time.

Respectfully,


Kimberly Dillon
City Clerk
City of Tamarac
Broward County, Florida

CITY OF TAMARAC, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. R-2022- 110

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TAMARAC, FLORIDA, URGING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO EXTEND TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS ("TPS") DESIGNATION FOR HONDURANS AND TO DECLARE A NEW INITIAL TPS DESIGNATION DATE FOR HONDURANS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on January 5, 1999, Hondurans were granted Temporary Protected Status ("TPS") because of the devastation caused to Honduras by Hurricane Mitch, which killed over 10,000 people, destroyed thousands of homes, and caused over \$5 billion in damage; and

WHEREAS, Honduran Nationals eligible for TPS protection must have been present in the United States as of January 5, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the TPS designation for Hondurans was subsequently extended on numerous occasions until 2017, when the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") announced its decision to terminate the TPS designation for Hondurans, effective January 5, 2022, following an 18-month transition period; and

WHEREAS, due to series of legal challenges, the TPS designation for Hondurans was not terminated on January 5, 2022, and, most recently, on September 10, 2021, DHS announced that the TPS designation for Honduras was extended through December 31, 2022, because of the legal challenges; and

WHEREAS, in the time since the initial announcement that the TPS designation for Hondurans would be terminated, the situation in Honduras has deteriorated; the country has suffered devastating effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, and, in November 2022, two Category 4 Hurricanes, Eta and Iota ravaged Honduras less than two weeks apart destroying roads, homes, hospitals, schools, and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the devastation caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota – loss of 80% of the agriculture sector and over \$1.86 billion in damages in the midst of a pandemic, as well as Honduras' designation as the third poorest country in North America – is on the scale to justify an independent designation of TPS for Hondurans as the country struggles to recover; and

WHEREAS, the approximately 57,000 Hondurans who currently have TPS, have been in the United States since at least January of 1999, and have strong community ties, including U.S. born children who should not have to choose between their parents and their birthright as Americans; and

WHEREAS, according to the Central Bank of Honduras, 22% percent of the Gross Domestic Product ("GDP") of Honduras comes from remittances from TPS recipients and others, totaling more than \$5.7 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, Honduras will be unable to safely receive or assimilate 57,000 or more Hondurans or to replace their remittances, which help sustain its economy, rendering deportations of Hondurans with TPS both unsafe and destabilizing ; and

WHEREAS, Hondurans currently meet all of the requirements for an initial designation of a foreign state under the TPS program — the environmental disasters of Hurricane Eta, Hurricane Lora, and the COVID-19 pandemic have caused a substantial disruption of the living conditions in Honduras, and Honduras is currently unable to adequately handle the return of its nationals, and Honduran Minister of Foreign Affairs Lisandro Rales officially requested designation of Honduras under the TPS statute on December 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Broward County has a significant population of Hispanics, of which twelve percent are from Central American countries like Honduras and Tamarac is home to residents of Honduran nationality, as well as many Honduran organizations and business; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida, unanimously adopted a similar resolution on October 19, 2021, "Urging the Biden Administration to Extend TPS Designation for Honduras and to Declare a New Initial TPS Designation Date for Honduras"; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Tamarac, deems it to be in the best interests of the business owners, residents, and visitors of the City of Tamarac to support the calls for the Biden Administration to extend the TPS designation for Honduras and to declare a new initial TPS designation date for Honduras.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TAMARAC, FLORIDA THAT:

Section 1: The foregoing recitals are true and correct and hereby adopted as the legislative and administrative findings of the City Commission; all exhibits attached hereto are incorporated herein and made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2: The City Commission of the City of Tamarac hereby urges President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to instruct DHS to adopt a new TPS designation date for Honduras and to extend TPS designation for Honduras beyond its current December 31, 2022, expiration date.

Section 3: The City Commission of the City of Tamarac hereby urges DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to adopt a new TPS designation date for Honduras beyond its current December 31, 2022, expiration date.

Section 4: City staff is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., White House Chief of Staff Ron A. Klain, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, the members of the Broward Congressional Delegation, the Broward County Commission, and the mayors of all municipalities in Broward County.

Section 5: All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 6: This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 14TH day of SEPTEMBER,
2022.


MICHELLE J. GOMEZ
MAYOR

ATTEST:


KIMBERLY DILLON, CMC
CITY CLERK

RECORD OF COMMISSION VOTE:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| MAYOR GOMEZ: | <u>YES</u> |
| DIST 1: COMM. BOLTON | <u>YES</u> |
| DIST 2: V/M GELIN | <u>YES</u> |
| DIST 3: COMM. VILLALOBOS | <u>YES</u> |
| DIST 4: COMM. PLACKO | <u>YES</u> |

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR
THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF TAMARAC ONLY.


JOHN R. HERIN, JR.
CITY ATTORNEY



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

November 16, 2022

Kimberly Dillon
City Clerk
City of Tamarac
7525 NW 88th Ave.
Tamarac, FL 33321

Dear Ms. Dillon:

Thank you for your September 29, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting an extension and new designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Honduras. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS and implementing the program. Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf.

Thank you for the information you have provided on conditions in Honduras. DHS is monitoring conditions in the country and is committed to administering its programs, including TPS, in a fair and equitable manner. DHS makes decisions to designate TPS after consultation with interagency partners and careful consideration of the circumstances of the country.

On September 14, 2020, in *Ramos et al. v. Wolf et al.*, No. 18-16981 (9th Cir. 2020), a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit vacated the district court's injunction that prohibited DHS from terminating TPS for El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Sudan.¹ However, because the appellate court has not issued its directive to the district court to make that ruling effective, the injunction remains in place at this time. On September 10, 2021, DHS published a Federal Register notice (FRN) announcing that beneficiaries under the TPS designations of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, and Sudan will retain their TPS designations while the preliminary injunction in *Ramos* remains in effect, provided their TPS is not withdrawn because of individual ineligibility.² In compliance with the injunction, DHS has automatically extended the validity of Employment Authorization Documents and other TPS-related documentation for TPS beneficiaries affected by the injunction through December 31, 2022. If necessary, DHS will publish future FRNs to continue its compliance with the court orders. For further information, please visit the TPS country page for Honduras on the USCIS website.³

¹ <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/injunctions/9th-Circuit-TPS-Opinion-09-14-2020.pdf>.

² <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/09/10/2021-19617/continuation-of-documentation-for-beneficiaries-of-temporary-protected-status-designations-for-el>.

³ <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-honduras>.

I appreciate the concerns you have outlined regarding the situation in Honduras and your interest in its extension and new designation for TPS due to the current conditions in Honduras. Please be assured that DHS offers support that may be available upon request to assist eligible Honduran nationals residing in the United States who have been affected by these conditions, including:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status if eligible nationals are currently in the United States, even if the request is filed after the authorized period of admission has expired;
- Expedited processing of requests for travel authorization documents;
- Expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;
- Assistance if applicants received a Request for Evidence or a Notice of Intent to Deny and were unable to appear for an interview, submit evidence, or respond in a timely manner because of the pandemic; and
- Replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

More information is available at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director