

RESOLUTION NO. 18-26

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CA, OPPOSING THE UNLAWFUL UNITED STATES MILITARY INTERVENTION AGAINST VENEZUELA

WHEREAS, the City of the City of Richmond, California has long upheld principles of peace, human rights, and the responsible use of public resources, including through its Human Rights Affirmation Resolution; and

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2026, the United States Armed Forces launched a large-scale military operation against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, including air strikes and a special operations mission that resulted in at least one hundred persons killed and in the abduction and removal to the United States of the constitutional Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, and his wife, First Lady Cilia Flores, past President of the National Assembly; and

WHEREAS, following that operation, the President of the United States publicly stated that the United States would “run Venezuela” indefinitely and have control over aspects of governance and the management of Venezuela’s oil resources—actions widely criticized domestically and internationally as de facto occupation or unlawful control of another sovereign state’s internal affairs; and

WHEREAS, U.S. military presence and involvement in Venezuela continues without explicit statutory authorization from Congress, which is a violation of the U.S. Constitution and the War Powers Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. military attacks against Venezuela violated core tenets of the UN Charter, including the principles of sovereign equality, noninterference in internal affairs, peaceful settlement of international disputes and the prohibition of the use of force in international relations; and

WHEREAS, numerous governments, international law experts, and global organizations have condemned the U.S. strikes, the killings and abductions, and the control of Venezuelan institutions as violations of international law and Venezuelan sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, current U.S. policies toward Venezuela, including its continued military deployment and economic control over oil resources, have contributed to destabilizing the country, exacerbating humanitarian conditions, and causing avoidable harm to civilian populations; and

WHEREAS, the millions of dollars spent in these unlawful actions against the government and people of Venezuela were diverted from domestic needs in a clear betrayal of the promises made to have no more foreign wars and to prioritize the needs of U.S. cities and communities like Richmond, California; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond, California recognizes that war, military occupation, blockades, and prolonged foreign military involvement have significant human, economic, and social costs that often impact our communities in the U.S. by compelling desperate refugees to move with their families to the U.S. and beyond to survive; and

WHEREAS, local governments hold a responsibility to speak out when U.S. actions threaten international peace, human rights, or the well-being of their residents at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, the internal governance of each sovereign nation of the Americas needs to be addressed by the sovereign people of each nation and not by foreign military interventions; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Richmond, California, condemns the U.S. military strikes, occupation, or occupation-like control of Venezuela, the unlawful killings and abductions of Venezuelan nationals, and opposes any United States military presence, intervention, or de facto governance of Venezuela; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond, California calls for an immediate and unconditional end to any U.S. military occupation or control activities in Venezuela, including the complete withdrawal of U.S. armed forces from Venezuelan territory and internal affairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond, California calls for the immediate release from detention and repatriation of the constitutional President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond urges the U.S. federal government to end its current strategies and actions against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. These policies are causing diplomatic, humanitarian, political, and economic crises, creating regional instability and undermining international law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond calls on the U.S. Congress to assert its constitutional authority and require the President to cease all unauthorized military actions against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond rejects all attempts by the current federal administration, and all others, to revive the imperial hemispheric dominance policies known as the Monroe Doctrine and to overrun the sovereignty of the nations of the continent and subjugate them to the will and interests of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the United States Secretary of Defense, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the City's federal representatives.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held on February 17, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bana, Brown, Jimenez, Wilson, Zepeda,
Vice Mayor Robinson, and Mayor Martinez.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

Approved: (SEAL)

EDUARDO MARTINEZ
Mayor

Approved as to form:

SHANNON MOORE
Interim City Attorney

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

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 18-26**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on February 17, 2026.


Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond