

## **SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, In 2023, approximately 300,000 Ecuadorian citizens fled their homeland facing numerous challenges including natural disasters, economic instability, political unrest and increase in organized crime and drug trafficking drug cartel activity, with a daily average for violent deaths at 44.9 per 100,000 persons according to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Organized Crime; and,

**WHEREAS**, The increasing influence of organized crime networks has eroded the rule of law and caused fear and insecurity. The proliferation of these groups has led to a surge in violence, including illicit gun trafficking, kidnapping, extortion, executions and robbery underscoring the urgency of providing Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ecuadorians residing in the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**, TPS was created as a statute in 1990 allowing the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate a foreign country for TPS due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately; and,

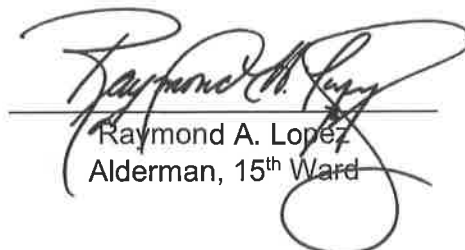
**WHEREAS**, The City of Chicago has welcomed Ecuadorian immigrants for generations, becoming the fourth top location for Ecuadorians following cities in the State of New York, living in the Logan Square, Uptown, Irving Park, Belmont Cragin, Mayfair, Humboldt Park and Albany Park communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, The migration of Ecuadorians has come in waves over the last several decades, with their populations growing exponentially every decade, becoming more and more embedded into the fabric of this most American of American cities; and,

**WHEREAS**, The current border crisis has exposed a fundamental injustice and bias towards Ecuador and its people, all who are ineligible for the Department of Homeland Security Temporary Protective Status as afforded to other Central and South American countries suffering from natural disasters, protracted unrest, or conflict; now therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 17th Day of July, 2024, call upon President Joseph Biden to urge the Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, to work with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility to process any request for Temporary Protective Status to Ecuadorian citizens living in uncertainty and fear for decades. TPS would allow them to work legally, access critical healthcare and contribute to their communities while awaiting improvements in conditions in Ecuador; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**, That the City of Chicago calls upon its congressional delegation to support this resolution and pursue legislation to make this request possible for the Ecuadorians deserving our help and support.



Raymond A. Lopez  
Alderman, 15<sup>th</sup> Ward