



DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA
MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

July 16, 2021

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of our community, thank you again for your swift response and leadership in the aftermath of the disaster in Surfside. We're grateful for the federal government's rapid mobilization, the great support of FEMA and other federal partners, and your personal commitment to and compassion for all the families and survivors impacted by this unthinkable tragedy.

We are witnessing a crucial moment for the Cuban people, and we stand united with Cubans on the island and across Miami-Dade at this historic juncture in the decades-long struggle for freedom, dignity, and basic human rights. Cuban people across the island are lifting their voices for freedom and an end to the dictatorship they've lived under for 62 years, and they are being met with brutal suppression tactics to stifle these cries for change. As a country and a community, it's imperative that we work together to support the courage and sacrifice of the Cuban people with meaningful action. This is the moment that the people of Cuba and the world have waited for – our actions now will help ensure we seize this generational opportunity to move us closer to the dream of a free, democratic Cuba.

It's also important that we listen to the voices of the Cuban community about how we can best support at this critical time. In my conversations with leaders, one clear call to action to support is by putting all cards on the table to facilitate internet connectivity and information flow on the island. What we are witnessing in Cuba now is possible thanks to this connectivity – an organic movement of people in over 50 towns and cities rallying to demand change, joining together because they could see these events unfolding in other communities across Cuba – and restricting access is a key tactic of the Cuban government to repress dissent. We should work to extend wifi around the U.S. Consular Service, collaborate with tech companies to protect dissident voices on tech platforms, and look for all technology solutions to expand internet access on the island in the long term. This is also an opportunity for the global community to band together and for the U.S. and regional allies in Latin America to usher in the change we need in our hemisphere. There is no doubt that what is happening in Cuba can be the catalyst for progress across the region, and the moment to lend support is now.

Having seen first-hand your leadership in bringing people together in time of crisis, our community calls on you once again to lend your presence and voice to this pivotal opportunity for change. We urge you to convene and listen to the voices of Cuban leaders. And we welcome you to join us in South Florida and to directly engage and show solidarity with the Cuban exile community, along with people from Haiti, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Colombia, and many others who are fighting for human rights, dignity, and democracy for their loved ones and the countries they love. Your presence will signal to Cubans here at home and on the island that the U.S. stands with them in our unconditional support of democracy and an end to tyranny and communism in Cuba.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava