

# Salt Lake County

## ***A PROCLAMATION OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL COMMEMORATING VENEZUELAN INDEPENDENCE DAY AND HONORING THE VENEZUELAN COMMUNITY IN SALT LAKE COUNTY***

**WHEREAS**, the United States, the State of Utah, and Salt Lake County, since their respective foundings, have each been a home for people seeking refuge from persecution; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Utah is the state with the fourth highest number of persons of Venezuelan descent living in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the United Nations (UN), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the U.S. State Department, Venezuela has more than 5 million refugees seeking freedom, opportunity, and happiness; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of Venezuela are now suffering the largest migration of Latin America in all its history; and

**WHEREAS**, the danger and difficulties currently afflicting the Venezuelan people is an example of what an oppressive regime can do; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of Salt Lake County, including its Venezuelan American residents, affirm the values of the United States, including those articulated in the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Council recognizes that the United States of America generally and Salt Lake County in particular have a special and unique power to bring out the best in all those who come here with the desire to seek freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, Salt Lake County is home to thousands of Venezuelans who have been forced to flee their country under threat of persecution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council desires to express its solidarity with the Venezuelan People on their Independence Day of July 5th; and

**WHEREAS**, with solidarity, love, and inclusion, the Council reaffirms the great blessing it is to live in freedom here in the United States of America as we celebrate, honor, and recognize our own Independence Day.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Salt Lake County Council that:

The Salt Lake County Council hereby pledges solidarity with the people of Venezuela and urges the residents of our community to join with us in commemorating and observing July 5th, 2021, as Venezuelan Independence Day. The Council further encourages all residents of our community to join us in honoring our Venezuelan neighbors and expressing our solidarity and remembering our friendship with the Venezuelan people on their Independence Day.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 29th day of June 2021.

Steve DeBry  
Chair, District 5

Laurie Stringham  
At-Large A

Richard Snelgrove  
At-Large B

Jim Bradley  
At-Large C

Arlyn Bradshaw  
District 1

David Alvord  
District 2

Aimee Winder-Newton  
District 3

Ann Granato  
District 4

Dea Theodore  
District 6