

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD



RESOLUTION NO. 215-17

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXTENDING HAITI'S TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

WHEREAS, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) provides protection from deportation and employment authorization to individuals from countries that have experienced armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other life-threatening conditions; and

WHEREAS, TPS protections must be regularly renewed to remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, 58,000 Haitians with TPS have been in the US since at least January 12, 2011, most for 7 to 16 years, and have community ties including U.S.-born children; and

WHEREAS, the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race has provided information showing that 1.9 percent of the population in South Orange and Maplewood is foreign born from Haiti; and

WHEREAS, there are Haitian residents of Maplewood who are TPS holders and have deep ties to the Maplewood by raising families, starting businesses, buying homes, and making other valuable contributions to our community; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) extended Haiti's TPS designation for only six months, warning recipients to be prepared to return to Haiti, and it is now scheduled to end on January 22, 2018; and

WHEREAS, President Trump's Administration has indicated that it is strongly considering not renewing TPS, thereby placing thousands of individuals, including residents of Maplewood, at risk of imminent deportation and depriving them of the means to make a living and support their families; and

WHEREAS, Haiti's government requested an extension of no less than 18 months beyond its current January 22, 2018 expiration date until it has recovered from the 2010 earthquake from which recovery remains incomplete, with nearly 40,000 earthquake victims still remaining in internally displaced persons camps and 200,000 more in a "settlement" camp and October's Hurricane Matthew, the worst hurricane to hit Haiti in 52 years, which killed 1,000 people, left hundreds of thousands without safe water or food, inundated vast areas and towns and destroyed crops, livestock, and infrastructure in broad areas; and

WHEREAS, the DHS must decide by November 23, 2017 whether to terminate or extend Haiti's TPS designation, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that:

1. The Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood urges President Donald Trump to instruct DHS to extend Haiti's TPS designation for no less than 18 months beyond its current January 22, 2018 expiration date.
2. The Township Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security and all members of U.S. congressional delegation from New Jersey.

I, Elizabeth J. Fritzen, Township Clerk of the Township of Maplewood, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, at a regular meeting of said Committee held on November 8, 2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Maplewood in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, on this 8th day of November 2017.

ELIZABETH J. FRITZEN, R.M.C.
Township Clerk