

OFFICE OF MAYOR GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN



September 4, 2009

Dear Dominican Committee for the Freedom of the Five:

I send my heartfelt greetings to all of you! As mayor of the City of Richmond, I join in the 11th Anniversary of the arrest of the Cuban Five and salute the work of the Dominican Committee for the Freedom of the Five, along with the many political, cultural, and religious organizations around the world working on behalf of this cause. I am proud to stand in solidarity with all of you and with the people of Cuba, who want their five heroes back home. It is an outrage that these five men continue to be unjustly imprisoned in my country for peacefully protecting their country against terrorist attacks.

Many of us in the US are calling on President Obama to hear the voices of people all over the world who are asking that this injustice be stopped. Our Richmond City Council unanimously passed a resolution, which was sent to President Obama and others in our national leadership, calling for freedom for the Five. I also initiated a campaign with 13 mayors in the US calling for humanitarian visas for the families of the Five. Sadly, these visas have not yet been granted. However, we are not discouraged, knowing that these wrongs will be righted eventually, as long as good people everywhere join together.

A better world is possible, and it is because of deep commitments to justice, like that of the Dominican Committee for the Freedom of the Five, that this better world is drawing closer every day!

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gayle McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Gayle McLaughlin
Mayor, City of Richmond*