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## **Resist the Regime Summit and Rally Cancelled by Marriott for Memorial Day Weekend in Houston**

HOUSTON, TX – The Liberal Party USA was scheduled to host the “Resist the Regime” Summit and Rally on Saturday May 24th at the Houston Airport Marriott to train advocates and protest the inhumane treatment and deportation of immigrants. The Marriott cancelled the “Resist the Regime” event on Friday April 4th after the Liberal Party USA confirmed pro-immigration organization partners and advocates were invited.

“It’s demoralizing that businesses fearing retaliation from the Trump administration would cancel us because we’re fighting for justice and democracy in America,” Trisha Butler, Chair of the Liberal Party USA said. “Every person’s free speech matters. The 1st Amendment is under attack by this regime and we hoped that businesses like the Marriott would join We the People in standing against the Constitutional violations and human rights abuses instead of being complicit.”

The Summit, which was scheduled over Memorial Day weekend, was to feature non-partisan activist training sessions, speakers, and panels addressing justice issues impacted by the current White House administration. Topics included immigrants’ rights (arrests of students, travel bans, retroactively cancelled visas, and deportation of legal immigrants), LGBTQIA+ rights, health freedom, justice reform, free speech, voting rights, anti-cronyism and anti-corruption, and activism against other injustices. The organizers’ decision to focus on immigrant justice issues follows in the wake of unlawful deportations of peaceful people and the detention of immigrant and citizen minor children by ICE.

“This event was not about left versus right,” Butler said in her statement about the Resist the Regime Rally. “This is about right versus wrong and democracy versus authoritarianism. We stand with our immigrant neighbors and seek to unite America under a new Liberal banner so everyone’s rights and dignity will be respected. We are disappointed Marriott cancelled our event but that won’t stop us in our fight for justice.”

A joint “Resist the Regime” press conference was to be held in the Intercontinental Ballroom at the Houston Airport Marriott followed by free speech political action at IAH, where attendees would have distributed “Know Your Rights” pamphlets to travelers. The George Bush



Intercontinental Airport is a Department of Homeland Security processing center before people are deported. The Liberal Party USA has denounced the unlawful deportations of peaceful people and legal immigrants, protesting how people are being ripped from their families and disappeared to El Salvador mega prisons.

“Now is the time for everyone to rise up to the moment,” Butler said. “We have to fight for human rights and against the fascist tyranny of the Trump regime!”

Organizers anticipated over 500 activists to gather at the airport hotel and buses which would have transported participants to various off-site locations for evening rush hour “Resist the Regime” rallies and protests. The Liberal coalition aimed to demonstrate how diverse groups can unite in solidarity for human and civil rights. Pro-immigration and justice organizations invited to the event included Project Liberal PAC, the Texas ACLU, the Greater Houston LULAC Council (League of United Latin American Citizens), MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund), Al Awda Houston, the Islamic Society of Greater Houston, and other potential partners.

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