

RESOLUTION NO. 17-___

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLES OF INCLUSION, FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS, WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES; AND URGING ACTION BY NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESSES, AND RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES CONSISTENT WITH THESE PRINCIPLES; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Cutler Bay (the “Town”) desires to express its support of the principles of inclusion for individuals with Autism and other special needs; and

WHEREAS, approximately one (1) in sixty-eight (68) children have an autism spectrum disorder according to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and approximately one (1) in five (5) individuals have a disability according to the 2010 U.S. Census; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which supports inclusion and accommodation of children and adults with special needs and disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Convention has identified the following core principles of inclusion:

- a. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- b. Non-discrimination;
- c. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- d. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- e. Equality of opportunity;
- f. Accessibility;
- g. Equality between men and women;
- h. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities; and

WHEREAS, inclusion is an attitude, an approach, and a mindset, which welcomes and facilitates participation by those with disabilities and special needs, and encourages accommodations beyond those required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to affirm our commitment to the principles of inclusiveness into every part of the Town's operations, including but not limited to:

- Conducting an Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Compliance Self-Assessment in all departments and implement any recommended actions to the greatest extent possible;
- Ensuring that 100% of Town Staff receives training relating to disability awareness, inclusion, and/or ADA Compliance that is relevant to their position;
- Ensuring accessibility for residents to Town information, events and meetings;
- Ensuring that 100% of Town Police Officers are trained to recognize and respond to individuals that present them with a "Wallet Card," a tool to be used by a teenager or an adult with a disability. The Wallet Card is a project of the Disability Independence Group, Inc. that was designed in collaboration with the Coral Gables Police Department (CGPD), and the University of Miami Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-NSU CARD);
- Promoting the Wallet Card Program to residents through the Town's Website and Community Outreach Activities, and assisting residents with applying for a "Wallet Card;"
- The Town's After-School Program was recognized by the "Advocacy Network on Disabilities All Children Together" Project for completing Step Two (2) of Five (5) on the Inclusion Readiness Tool (IRT). The IRT is used to help organizations determine their readiness to provide quality services to children with disabilities. In order to reach Step 2 in the IRT, the Town's staff was required to complete trainings and adopt policies and procedures in order to meet the needs of youth with disabilities as well as the needs of their parents. The Town is now close to reaching Step Three (3) and is well on the way to achieving Step Four (4). This will require staff to review the current New Hire Training Plan and implement agency-wide policies and procedures to effectively work with people with disabilities;
- The Town's Parks & Recreation Department will ensure that all new facility installations and improvements will follow the principles of universal accessibility. For example, the Lakes-by-the-Bay Park will receive an ADA Accessibly Canoe/Kayak Launch with paved walkways, all planed playground upgrades will include accessible equipment, and parks receiving outdoor fitness equipment will include pieces that are ADA accessible;

- The Town has become a leader in Miami-Dade County for implementing Complete Streets Projects. The Town is currently developing a “Cutler Bay Complete Streets Corridor Analysis” that will guide all major arterial roadway improvements. The Complete Streets Analysis will include guidance on ensuring ADA Accessibility and connectivity; and
- The Building & Code Compliance Department will implement a curbside service in which residents with disabilities that are homebound may request Town Staff to come to their home to file for permits or other building related needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Support. The Town Council hereby expresses its support of the principles of inclusion for individuals with Autism and other special needs as further provided in this Resolution.

Section 3. Urging. The Town Council urges action by national, state and local governments, businesses and residential communities consistent with the principals provided in this Resolution.

Section 4. Transmittal by Clerk. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit this Resolution to the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, Florida League of Cities, Florida Association of Counties, Miami-Dade County League of Cities, Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade Public Schools, and municipalities in Miami-Dade County.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of February, 2017.

Attest:

PEGGY R. BELL
Mayor

DEBRA E. EASTMAN, MMC
Interim Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE
SOLE USE OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY:

WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN
COLE & BIERMAN, P.L.
Town Attorney

Moved by: _____
Second by: _____

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION:

Mayor Peggy R. Bell _____

Vice Mayor Sue Ellen Loyzelle _____

Council Member Mary Ann Mixon _____

Council Member Michael P. Callahan _____

Council Member Roger Coriat _____