

RESOLUTION NO. 13- 2138

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA (“TOWN”), ADOPTING AN ANTI-BULLYING POLICY THAT ESTABLISHES AN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AND REPORTING SYSTEM FOR BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION OF CHILDREN IN COMMUNITY FACILITIES; REQUIRING THE TOWN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE TOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE TO CREATE A PROGRAM OF EDUCATION AND REPORTING, TO PREVENT BULLYING IN THE TOWN’S COMMUNITY FACILITIES; AND REQUESTING SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES JOIN IN SUCH EFFORTS AND TO ESTABLISH A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE THROUGH AN INTERLOCAL BOARD TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AND ANTI-BULLYING POLICY; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING AN FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside (“TOWN”) is concerned about the health, safety and welfare of its citizens and particularly to provide a healthy, positive, and safe atmosphere for its children; and

WHEREAS, it appears that incidents of bullying are increasing to such a degree, and research suggests that such incidents directly affect a student's health and well-being and thus contribute to excess absences from school, physical sickness, mental and emotional anguish, and long-term social and mental consequences, such that in 2011, the Florida legislature adopted Section 1006.147 Florida Statutes defining and prohibiting bullying and harassment in the public schools; and

WHEREAS, bullying, harassment, and intimidation can take many physical, verbal, and written forms, including physical bullying; teasing or name-calling; social exclusion; peer sexual harassment; bullying about race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender

identity, and cyber bullying [bullying through email, text messaging, social media sites and/or other digital means as defined in Section 748.048 (1)(d), F.S.]; and

WHEREAS, it is long past time for not only society, but also for our community to acknowledge that bullying is not some sort of rite of passage to be simply ignored or tolerated; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the public schools, many parks programs across the region are already engaged in education and prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside (“SURF”) has a population of 5,838 residents, Village of Bal Harbour (“BAL”), a residential population of 3,400 and Bay Harbor Islands (“BAY”), a residential population of 5,146; and

WHEREAS, the SURF BAL BAY residents and their children utilize the TOWN’S Community facilities; and

WHEREAS, because of the numbers of children with increasing diversity utilizing the TOWN’S parks and the Community Center, the TOWN and concerned parents are urged to work together to further define and understand the multiple aspects of bullying and effectively use systems for educating about and reporting bullying related incidents; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission believes it is in the best interest of the TOWN and wishes to be proactive in these matters and to assure that every child is to be valued and respected regardless of perceived differences, and therefore wishes to condemn all forms of bullying and affirms the TOWN’S commitment to equality and freedom from discrimination and violence for all of its residents, and particularly its children.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

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

Section 2. Adoption of Anti-Bullying Policy of Bullying and Recommendations.

The Town Commission wishes to take a leadership role in adopting an Anti-Bullying Policy that establishes an awareness campaign and reporting system for bullying, harassment, and intimidation and recommends and urges the following actions:

a) The TOWN'S Parks and Recreation Department in collaboration with the TOWN'S Parks and Recreation Committee shall develop a policy that includes an awareness campaign which shall consist of a program of education (including promotion and modeling of respectful language, fostering an understanding of and respect for diversity, and an annual training program for staff), signage referencing the Anti-Bullying Policy and adopted legislation posted at all Parks and Recreation Department facilities, and a reporting system for these incidents of bullying or retaliation, in all Community facilities;

b) To coordinate and encourage the surrounding communities of Bay Harbor Islands and Bal Harbour, whose children utilize TOWN facilities (as well as other neighboring municipalities and schools) to join with the TOWN in effectuating such an effort;

c) To establish an Interlocal Board comprised of one individual representative from each of the surrounding communities that wishes to participate among the municipalities of Bay Harbor Islands, Bal Harbour, Miami Beach, North Bay Village, Sunny Isles Beach, Aventura, North Miami Beach, North Miami, other interested communities and the TOWN to collaboratively develop an awareness campaign and anti-bullying policy to be implemented in their Parks and Recreation facilities.

Section 3. Implementation. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to take any and all action necessary to implement this Resolution in accordance with the terms, conditions and purposes of this Resolution.

Section 4. Direction to the Town Manager and Town Clerk. The Town Manager and Town Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the municipal clerks of the surrounding communities of Bay Harbor Islands, Bal Harbour, Miami Beach, North Bay Village, Sunny Isles Beach, Aventura, North Miami Beach and North Miami as well as the Principals of Ruth K Broad K-8 Center and the surrounding public and private schools encouraging similar efforts.

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

PASSED and ADOPTED on this day 12 day of February, 2013.

Motion by ~~Commissioner~~ Mayor Dietch, Second by Commissioner Olchyk.


FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION

Commissioner Joseph Graubart	<u>YES</u>
Commissioner Michelle Kligman	<u>YES</u>
Commissioner Marta Olchyk	<u>YES</u>
Vice Mayor Michael Karukin	<u>YES</u>
Mayor Daniel Dietch	<u>YES</u>



Daniel Dietch, Mayor

Attest:



Sandra Novoa, Town Clerk

**Approved as to form and legal sufficiency
For the Town of Surfside only:**



Linda Miller, Interim Town Attorney