

RESOLUTION NO. 16 - 2394

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA DECLARING PRINCIPLES OF INCLUSION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS, AND URGING ACTION BY NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESSES, AND RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES CONSISTENT WITH THESE PRINCIPLES; DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF 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, MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND MUNICIPALITIES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, approximately 1 in 68 children have an autism spectrum disorder according to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and approximately 1 in 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 of Surfside's commitment to inclusion is demonstrated through its recreational programs for children with special needs, including hosting the successful Pediatric Psychology Associates Surf Camp, which is in its fifth year; and

WHEREAS, the Town expresses its commitment to the principle of inclusion of children and adults with special needs and disabilities in all aspects of its governance and services, and seeks to welcome and facilitate such participation; and

WHEREAS, the Town urges businesses to express their commitment to the principle of inclusion in both employment and commerce; and

WHEREAS, the Town urges developers, homeowner associations, and condominium associations to adopt policies supporting the principle of inclusion in residential communities; and

WHEREAS, the Town urges universities and other places of learning to prioritize programs supporting inclusion of individuals with special needs and disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Town urges national, state, and local governments to express their commitment to the principle of inclusion as well, and to continue expanding services to children and adults with special needs and disabilities.

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

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

Section 2. Authorization and Implementation. The Town Manager and/or designee are hereby authorized to take any and all action necessary to implement this Resolution.

Section 3. Direction to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of 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, Miami-Dade Public Schools, and municipalities in Miami-Dade County.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of September 2016.

Motion by Commissioner Paul,

Second by Commissioner Karukin.

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION

Commissioner Daniel Gielchinsky

yes

Commissioner Michael Karukin

yes

Commissioner Tina Paul

yes

Vice Mayor Barry Cohen

yes

Mayor Daniel Dietch

yes



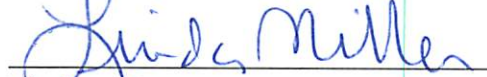
Daniel Dietch, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra Novoa, MMC, Town Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE ONLY:**



Linda Miller, Town Attorney