

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-3

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES 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.

WHEREAS, the completion of National Autism Awareness Month provides an opportunity to reflect on the inherent dignity of all human beings, and the importance of including and accommodating children and adults on the autism spectrum, as well as children and adults with other special needs and disabilities in all aspects of daily life;

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;

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;

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

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;

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities is committed to the principle of inclusion, and urges municipalities throughout Miami-Dade County, and throughout the state and country, to adopt similar declarations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES THAT:

Section 1. The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

Section 2. The Miami-Dade County League of Cities expresses its commitment to the principle of inclusion of individuals with autism and other special needs and disabilities in all aspects of life;

Section 3. The Miami-Dade County League of Cities urges municipalities in Miami-Dade County, and local governments throughout the state and country, to adopt policies and expand services that support inclusion of individuals with autism and other special needs and disabilities;

Section 4. The Miami-Dade County League of Cities urges businesses to express their commitment to the principle of inclusion in both employment and commerce;

Section 5. The Miami-Dade County League of Cities urges developers, homeowner associations, and condominium associations to adopt policies supporting the principle of inclusion in residential communities;

Section 6. The Miami-Dade County League of Cities urges universities and other places of learning to prioritize programs supporting the principle of inclusion.

Section 7. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption hereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS FIFTH DAY OF MAY, A.D., 2016.

ATTEST:



GEORGE VALLEJO
SECRETARY



FRANCIS X. SUAREZ
PRESIDENT