

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, NAMING THE CITY-FUNDED SWIM LESSON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AT THE VENETIAN POOL IN HONOR OF SONIA DALLAS, LONG-TIME CITY VOLUNTEER AND WATER SAFETY CHAIR OF THE VENETIAN AQUATIC CLUB

**WHEREAS**, the Venetian Aquatic Club was initially established in 1959 by a group of women concerned for the safety of children around the many waterways, lakes, pools and access to open water in their community; and

**WHEREAS**, swim lessons have been offered as part of the American Red Cross 'Learn to Swim Program' at the Venetian Pool since 1959 and scholarships were established to provide this essential life skill to those most impacted by financial hardships; and

**WHEREAS**, teaching people of all ages the importance of water-safety and the lifelong skill of swimming, helps aid in drowning prevention and ultimately save lives in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Sonia Dallas played a key leadership role in the Venetian Aquatic Club (“Club”) and was instrumental in the training, and educating all of its volunteers to learn, grow and succeed within the Club; and

**WHEREAS**, Dallas’ passion for water safety, a deep understanding of people, and a keen eye for the skill set of each individual in the program, allowed her to orchestrate and plan many successful swim seasons throughout the years; and

**WHEREAS**, for Dallas, keeping students safe was first and foremost, and as a Level V & VI swim instructor she was an effective, smart teacher who encouraged and shared her knowledge of swimming techniques with her adored students, who equally adored her; and

**WHEREAS**, Dallas went above and beyond in service to the Club and community, and volunteered countless hours of her time as the Club’s Water Safety Chair from 1985 to 2021, when she passed, even serving during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when her health was in rapid decline; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission wishes to honor Dallas’ legacy by naming the swim lesson scholarship program the “Sonia Dallas Learn To Swim Scholarship;”

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:**

**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.** That the City Commission hereby names the City’s swim lesson scholarship the “Sonia Dallas Learn To Swim Scholarship.”

**SECTION 3.** That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF MAY A.D., 2022.

APPROVED:

VINCE LAGO  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

BILLY Y. URQUIA  
CITY CLERK

MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS  
CITY ATTORNEY