



City of Coral Gables  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
April 21, 2020

**ITEM TITLE:**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, 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. (SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER KEON)

**BRIEF HISTORY:**

April is National Autism Awareness Month, which 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.

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.

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.

The City's commitment to the principle of inclusion can be seen in the City's Parks and Recreation Department, the Coral Gables Police Department's work with Disability Independence Group and UM-NSU Card on the Wallet Card Project. In 2019 the City held its second "Adventure Day For All" event, a family-friendly event for people of all ages and abilities, which was attended by over five hundred people. In 2019 the City introduced its new, "City for All Award," an award given to recognize and reward local businesses for actions they are taking to make accessibility and inclusion a priority.

The City further demonstrates its commitment to inclusion through its Advisory Board on Disability Affairs, which advises and provides input to City staff regarding matters affecting individuals with disabilities in Coral Gables in an effort to support full inclusion and accommodation, as well as through the Special Needs Initiative being spearheaded by its School & Community Relations Committee, in conjunction with Miami-Dade Public Schools and UM-NSU CARD, which is actively seeking to promote inclusion of individuals with special needs, and provide additional educational, residential, occupational, and recreational opportunities in doing so.

**1. Proposed Resolution**