



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
April 12, 2016

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.

The City is committed to the principle of inclusion, which is an attitude, an approach, and a mindset. The City also welcomes and facilitates participation by those with disabilities and special needs, and encourages accommodations beyond those required by law.

The City's commitment is demonstrated in a number of ways, including through the Coral Gables Police Department's collaboration with the Disability Independence Group and UM-NSU CARD (Center for Autism and Related Disabilities) in the development of The Wallet Card Project of the Disability Independence Group, and related training videos, which is a nationally regarded program that assists individuals in informing governmental and police officials of their special needs through The Wallet Card, and trains police officers in interactions with individuals on the autism spectrum and with other special needs.

Similarly, the City's commitment to inclusion is also demonstrated through its expansion of recreational programs for children with special needs, its provision of space to the Center for Independent Living at the Youth Center, and its Mayor for a Day program with Crystal Academy, a local non-profit academy for children on the autism spectrum, among many other programs.



The City has further demonstrated 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.

The City has also demonstrated its commitment to inclusion 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.

This resolution emphasizes the tremendous importance of including children and adults with special needs in a welcoming manner in all aspects of daily life, reaffirms the City's strong commitment to these principles, and urges action by governments, businesses, educational institutions, residential communities, and other entities consistent with and in support of inclusion.

APPROVED BY:

City Attorney	City Manager
	

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Resolution to be approved.