

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, RE-ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC ANTI-BULLYING TASK FORCE TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANTI-BULLYING POLICIES AND LAWS TO PROTECT YOUTH FROM BULLYING IN ALL CITY SERVICES, CITY-SUPPORTED SERVICES, AND CITY FACILITIES; AND, PRESCRIBING THE DUTIES, COMPOSITION, MANNER OF APPOINTMENT, SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT, AND TERM OF OFFICE OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS.

WHEREAS, bullying creates a climate of fear and disrespect that can seriously impair the physical and psychological well-being of its victims, creating conditions that negatively affect learning, thereby undermining the ability of students to achieve their full potential; and

WHEREAS, bullying has become the subject of local, state, and national concern, resulting in an increased focus on prevention in Florida schools through policies that permit students to transfer to other schools to ensure a safe environment for students; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Commissioner Michael Gongora championed a partnership between the City of Miami Beach, Miami-Dade Public Schools, and the Anti-Defamation League to implement a citywide anti-bullying program in the 2013-14 School Year, entitled "No Place for Hate," which resulted in the designation of the City of Miami Beach as a Community of Respect by the Anti-Defamation League; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 2017-29731, adopted by the City Commission in February 2017, the City of Miami Beach again partnered with Miami-Dade Public Schools and the Anti-Defamation League to implement the "No Place for Hate" anti-bullying program in all six Miami Beach public schools to continue to address bullying prevention and to foster a safe and respectful school environment where youth can flourish and learn; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on June 13, 2017, the City's LGBTQ Committee unanimously approved a motion recommending that a task force be created and charged with ensuring that all youth—including at-risk LGBTQ youth—are protected from bullying (in policies that prohibit bullying on the express basis of sexual orientation and gender identity) in all City services, City-supported services, and City facilities; and

WHEREAS, in both the 2017 and 2018 Municipal Equality Index (MEI), the City of Miami Beach received a score of 100 from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation in its annual national evaluation of municipalities, which rates municipalities in such categories as non-discrimination laws, municipal employer benefits and policies, municipal services, law enforcement, and relationships with the LGBTQ community; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue to maintain the City's strong commitment to anti-bullying and anti-discrimination policies and programs, an Ad Hoc Anti-Bullying Task Force ("Task Force") was created pursuant to Resolution No. 2017-30109 to ensure that all youth,

including at-risk LGBTQ youth, are protected from bullying in all City services, City-supported services, and City facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Anti-Bullying Task Force was re-established pursuant to Resolution No. 2018-30661 for one year with the terms of membership to begin on January 1, 2019 and to expire on January 1, 2020, subject to earlier or later sunset by the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, for the Task Force to continue its important work, the Task Force, as initially constituted and established in Resolution No. 2017-30109, shall be re-established for a term not to exceed six (6) months, to begin with January 1, 2020 and to expire on July 1, 2020, subject to earlier or later sunset by the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, the duties of the Task Force shall be to provide ideas and recommendations to the Mayor and City Commission for the development of anti-bullying policies and laws to protect all youth including at-risk LGBTQ youth, from bullying in all City services, City-supported services, and City facilities; the Task Force shall be composed of seven (7) members who shall be direct appointments by the Mayor and City Commissioners and shall report to and receive direction and input from the Mayor and City Commission; and the supporting department for the Task Force shall continue to be the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the terms of membership on the Task Force shall begin on January 1, 2020 and expire on July 1, 2020 (subject to earlier or later sunset by the City Commission).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby re-establish an Ad Hoc Anti-Bullying Task Force to provide recommendations to the Mayor and City Commission for the development of anti-bullying policies and laws to protect youth from bullying in all City services, City-supported services, and City facilities; and, prescribing the duties, composition, manner of appointment, supporting department, and term of office of task force members.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 11th day of December, 2019.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by: Commissioner Michael Góngora)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney
PA

12/3/19
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