

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DECLARING MAY 25, 2024 AS FAMILY ABDUCTION AWARENESS DAY IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, AND DIRECTING THE MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVES AIMED AT EDUCATING RESIDENTS ABOUT THE PREVALENCE, RISKS, AND CONSEQUENCES OF FAMILY ABDUCTION.

WHEREAS, family abduction is a devastating and traumatic experience that affects countless families across the nation, often resulting in emotional distress and long-term consequences for both the abducted children and their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, May 25th is National Missing Children Awareness Day and the month of May provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate support for national efforts to reduce the threat of family abductions, reunite the children who are missing with their families, and honor all those who are working for the cause; and

WHEREAS, every 40 seconds, a child goes missing or is abducted in the United States and statistically, 90% of all missing children get taken by their parents or another family member; and

WHEREAS, a family abduction occurs when a child is taken, wrongfully retained, or concealed by a parent or other family member depriving another individual of their right to custody or visitation, even in cases with vague or absent court orders; and

WHEREAS, a family abduction is often an act of frustration by the perpetrator with the left-behind parent, the legal system, or his or her own situation in life; and

WHEREAS, a family abduction has distinctive characteristics including emotional and psychological trauma to the child and left-behind family; and

WHEREAS, as the City of Miami Beach strives to remain vigilant and informed about the dangers that face children within our communities, it is critical to recognize that family abduction is a serious crime – not only a civil matter- in all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, a Family Abduction occurs when a child is taken, wrongfully retained, **WHEREAS**, law enforcement officers should recognize these events not AS harmless offenses where two parents are arguing over who loves the child more, but instead as an insidious form of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on law enforcement agencies to maintain written plans which specify actions and procedures for promptly meeting situations of alleged family abduction; and

WHEREAS, courts have held that law enforcement is responsible for making certain that the child is with the person who has lawful custody and must verify the validity of any court orders, and when an agency fails to identify a need for training and to set policy for matters which are foreseeable, it creates a threat to public health; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission wish to declare May 25, 2024 as Family Abduction Awareness Day in the City of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, to highlight the importance of Family Abduction Awareness Day, the Mayor and City Commission direct the Miami Beach Police Department to conduct community outreach initiatives aimed at educating residents about the prevalence, risks, and consequences of family abduction, as well as providing guidance on the warning signs, preventive measures, and available resources to address this issue effectively.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby declare May 25, 2024 as Family Abduction Awareness Day in the City of Miami Beach, and direct the Miami Beach Police Department to conduct community outreach initiatives aimed at educating residents about the prevalence, risks, and consequences of family abduction.

PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Laura Dominguez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney

3-4-24

Date