

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, REAFFIRMING THE CITY'S POLICIES OF NONDISCRIMINATION AND INCLUSION, CREATING A SAFE SPACE PROGRAM FOR BUSINESSES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CITY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE SAFETY AND EQUAL TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, AND QUESTIONING ("LGBTQ") COMMUNITY, AND DIRECTING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT OUTREACH EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE SAFE SPACE PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach ("City") has a compelling interest in protecting its most vulnerable communities, including members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning ("LGBTQ") population; and

**WHEREAS**, according to an analysis of data collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, "[e]ven before the shooting rampage at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla., lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people were already the most likely targets of hate crimes in America" (*New York Times*, June 16, 2016); and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach's Human Rights Ordinance declares that "there is no greater danger to the health, morals, safety and welfare of the city and its inhabitants than the existence of prejudice against one another and antagonistic to each other because of actual or perceived differences of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, intersexuality, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital and familial status, age, disability, ancestry, height, weight, domestic partner status, labor organization membership, familial situation, or political affiliation"; and

**WHEREAS**, as stated in the Human Rights Ordinance, "prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination and disorder occasioned thereby threaten the rights and proper privileges of its inhabitants and menace the very institutions, foundations and bedrock of a free, democratic society"; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's Human Rights Ordinance prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing, and public services, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, religion, sex, intersexuality, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital and familial status, age, disability, ancestry, height, weight, domestic partner status, labor organization membership, familial situation, or political affiliation; and

**WHEREAS**, in furtherance of these policies, the Mayor and City Commission now desire to launch a Safe Space program for businesses and other organizations in Miami Beach to

demonstrate their commitment to the safety and equal treatment of members of the LGBTQ community ("Safe Space Program"); and

**WHEREAS**, the goals of the Safe Space Program are to provide members of the LGBTQ community with easily accessible safety information and safe places throughout Miami Beach that they can turn to if they are the victims of harassment or crime; and

**WHEREAS**, a business or organization desiring to designate itself as a Safe Space may register with the City's Police Department and obtain Safe Space decals to post as a symbol of safety; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to register as a Safe Space, a business or other organization must agree to the following terms:

- post the Safe Space decal outside the front entrance of the establishment;
- allow victims of LGBTQ-based harassment or crime to enter and remain at the establishment until the police arrive;
- immediately call or assist LGBTQ victims in calling 911; and

**WHEREAS**, any individual who seeks solace in a Safe Space location can be assured that if they are the victim of a crime, police will be called immediately.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA**, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby reaffirm the City's policies of nondiscrimination and inclusion, create a Safe Space Program for businesses and other organizations in the City to demonstrate their commitment to the safety and equal treatment of members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning ("LGBTQ") community, and direct the Police Department to conduct outreach efforts to promote the Safe Space Program.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Philip Levine

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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Michael Grieco)

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APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

Donald Pappas Jr 1/4/17  
City Attorney Date

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