

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-198

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA, AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ADOPTING A FOUR PRONG STRATEGY TO ASSURE MEASURED IMPROVMENTS RELATED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE IN OUR COMMUNITY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the global reaction to the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha resulted in nationwide demonstrations and calls for change; and

WHEREAS, examples of misuse of authority by law enforcement personnel and systemic racism across the country have again shone a light on bigotry and historic disparate treatment of people of color in our county; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek is fully committed to addressing hate and racial discrimination and helping to promote the value that no individual should be targeted because of their identity; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek hosted a virtual Town Hall Forum on July 1, 2020, to begin the dialogue within our community regarding advancement in areas related to social justice; and

WHEREAS, based on the dialogue, the areas of focus related to improvement include: Education, Purpose Driven Business, Police Relations, and Resident Involvement and Outreach; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coconut Creek reaffirms its commitment to principles of equality and freedom for all people regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, ability, national origin, and other protected classes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coconut Creek is committed to taking tangible action steps

to address the issues raised; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coconut Creek City Commission declares racism unjust, advocates equal rights for all, and affirms the City's commitment to adopting a four-pronged strategy to assure measured improvements related to social justice in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That the foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this resolution.

Section 2: That the City Commission hereby denounces racism, racial discrimination, and bias and will seek opportunities to eliminate vestiges of these practices in our community.

Section 3: That the City of Coconut Creek reaffirms its support of the public's right to peacefully and lawfully assemble and protest for the expression of police and social viewpoints, particularly on matters of paramount importance such as personal safety of its diverse residents, and their legitimate and constitutionally guaranteed right to equal protection under the law.

Section 4: That the City of Coconut Creek hereby commits to the development of a work program to assure self-reflection, examination, active listening and engagement with the community, specifically in the areas of education, purpose driven business, police relations, and resident involvement and outreach and to hold the entire organization accountable for progress related to social justice, including adopting reforms necessary to do so.

Section 5: That if any clause, section, other part or application of this resolution is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, in part or in application, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion or applications of this resolution.

Section 6: That this resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted this 24th day of September, 2020.

Louis Sarbone

Attest:

Leslie Wallace May, City Clerk

Sarbone Aye_____

Rydell Aye_____

Tooley Aye_____

Belvedere Aye_____

Welch Aye_____

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1/28/2020