

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-252

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA, DENOUNCING HATE, EXTREMISM, AND BIGOTRY; PROMOTING PEACE, CIVILITY, AND KINDNESS; SUPPORTING STEPS TO COMBATE HATE, EXTREMISM, AND BIGOTRY; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the United States of America is a nation founded on principles of liberty and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, differences should be celebrated, and our freedom of speech and other rights enshrined in the First Amendment are among our most cherished freedoms; and

WHEREAS, our diverse and pluralistic nation has endured and thrived for centuries because we have been able to reject the forces of extremism and bigotry that threaten to tear us apart, standing together in the face of challenges and division – we are Americans of different races, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, nationalities, and political persuasions; and

WHEREAS, across the country, many elected officials have spoken out against discrimination and injustice when it has occurred and have undertaken efforts to build tolerance and understanding within their communities; and

WHEREAS, we are now seeing efforts in our states and at the highest levels of government to weaken existing civil rights policies and an increase in hate-based violence, xenophobic rhetoric, and discriminatory actions that target minorities; and

WHEREAS, elected officials and their municipalities must continue to be a beacon for inclusion, tolerance, and respect for all; and

WHEREAS, elected officials will continue to create stronger cultures of kindness and compassion in our communities, and expect our federal and state partners to join in this endeavor; and

WHEREAS, as elected officials, we should collectively take steps such as:

1. Expressly rejecting extremism and all forms of bigotry;
2. Denouncing all acts of hate, whenever they occur;
3. Ensuring public safety while protecting free speech and other constitutional rights;
4. Calling for fully-resourced law enforcement and civil rights investigations of domestic terrorism and hate crimes;
5. Elevating and prioritizing anti-bias and anti-hate programs in our schools;
6. Supporting targeted communities and bringing together civic and community leaders to build trust;
7. Celebrating diversity, promoting inclusivity, and challenging bias;
8. Promoting law enforcement training on responding to and reporting hate incidents, hate crimes, and domestic terrorism;
9. Encouraging residents in their communities to report hate incidents and hate crimes, including using hotlines and online tools; and
10. Maintaining civil rights enforcement and strengthening hate crime laws when necessary.

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. All Exhibits attached hereto are incorporated herein and made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2: That the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek denounces all forms of hate, extremism, and bigotry.

Section 3: That the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek supports

steps to combat hate, extremism, and bigotry and promote peace, civility, and kindness.

Section 4: That the City Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, the Broward Sheriff's Office, the Broward League of Cities, the Florida League of Cities, and each municipality in Broward County.

Section 5: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted this 14th day of September, 2017.

Rebecca A. Tooley, Mayor

Attest:

Leslie Wallace May, City Clerk

Tooley	<u>Aye</u>
Rydell	<u>Aye</u>
Sarbone	<u>Aye</u>
Belvedere	<u>Aye</u>
Welch	<u>Aye</u>