RESOLUTION NO. 2018-245

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE CLOSURE OF BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON ELECTION DAY OR THE RELOCATION OF VOTING PRECINCTS FROM BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, for many years, the Broward County Supervisor of Elections has utilized Broward County Public Schools for the purpose of voting precincts on election days for primaries, general, and municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, while efforts are made by the respective schools to prevent access to other areas of the school campuses, parents, families, and school staff have been concerned about allowing access to the school campuses on election days for people who would not otherwise be allowed on the school campuses; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2018, a shooter gained access to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School campus and murdered seventeen (17) students and teachers and injured seventeen (17) others; and

WHEREAS, during the August 28, 2018, primary election in Broward County, there were 154 voting precincts located in 128 different Broward County Public Schools throughout Broward County; and

WHEREAS, during the August 28, 2018, primary election in Broward County, there were two (2) schools in Coconut Creek which hosted voting precincts; and

WHEREAS, Section 102.101, Florida Statutes, prohibits law enforcement personnel on duty in a polling precinct unless requested by the Supervisor of Elections; and

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WHEREAS, increasing visible police presence at or outside voting precincts is not a solution as police presence at the polls has been a historic method in areas of the United States to allegedly intimidate voters and can lead to lawsuits related to alleged voter intimidation; and

WHEREAS, for the November 6, 2018, general election, schools will be closed for an employee planning day; and

WHEREAS, reportedly other school districts have made adjustments in the public school year calendar to ensure schools are closed on election days to avoid the concern of having people on school campuses who would otherwise not be permitted on the campuses during the school day; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coconut Creek has been a strong advocate for school safety as well as encouraging more and better access to methods for citizens to cast their votes in elections; and

WHEREAS, Broward County Public Schools and the Broward County Supervisor of Elections should work together to find a solution to eliminate the risks associated with individuals who would otherwise not be permitted on a public school campus being there on election day, either by closing schools on election day or relocating voting precincts out of Broward County Public Schools.

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 supports the closure of Broward County Public Schools on election day for primaries, general elections, and municipal elections in order to provide maximum safety to children, families, and Broward County Public School staff.

Section 3: That, alternatively, the City Commission hereby supports the relocation of voting precincts on election day for primaries, general elections, and municipal elections from Broward County Public Schools to other locations in order to provide maximum safety to children, families, and Broward County Public School staff.

Section 4: That the City Clerk is hereby directed to distribute this Resolution to all municipal and county governments within Broward County, Florida, the School Board of Broward County, and the Broward County Supervisor of Elections.

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

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2018.

_____
Joshua Rydell, Mayor

Attest:

_____
Leslie Wallace May, City Clerk

Rydell   _____
Welch   _____
Tooley   _____
Sarbone   _____
Belvedere   _____