

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO RECOGNIZE OCTOBER 2024 AS LGBTQ HISTORY MONTH IN A WAY THAT COMPLIES WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAW AND SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES.

WHEREAS, LGBTQ History Month, founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher Rodney Wilson, is an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements; and

WHEREAS, the month of October was selected to coincide with National Coming Out Day (October 11), which was already established, and the anniversary of the first march on Washington for gay and lesbian rights in 1979; and

WHEREAS, the LGBTQ History Month is meant to highlight and celebrate the history and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ History Month commemorates the impact that the LGBTQ community has had on local, national, and international history; honors members of the LGBTQ community who have been lost to hate crimes and HIV/AIDS; and features celebrations such as pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, and concerts; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ identities have existed as long as humans have, but history books tend to either barely mention, completely ignore or deliberately erase LGBTQ+ people's existence and contributions; and

WHEREAS, during 2022 and 2023 school years, Miami-Dade School Board (the "School Board") failed to recognize an initiative sponsored by School Board member Lucia Baez Geller, to recognize October as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer ("LGBTQ") History Month, and teach 12th graders about two landmark Supreme Court cases impacting the LGBTQ communities; and

WHEREAS, despite School Board member Lucia Baez Geller's efforts on behalf of the LGBTQ community, the School Board voted each time to strike down the proposal; and

WHEREAS, the School Board recognizes heritage or history months throughout the school year to teach students about history, whether it be about Hispanic heritage, Black history or women's history; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the School Board overwhelmingly voted to recognize October as National LGBTQ History Month; and

WHEREAS, the School Board's latest failures to recognize October as LGBTQ History Month are a shameful step backwards, and an alarming bellwether of rising anti-LGBTQ rhetoric that has swept Florida in the recent years; and

WHEREAS, many of LGBTQ student suffer teasing, bullying, harassment, violence and internalized oppression that can lead to academic consequences, risky behavior and even suicide; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ youth face unique challenges and recent studies show that during 2021 alone, 42% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year; and

WHEREAS, the Trevor Project estimates that at least one LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13–24 attempts suicide every 45 seconds in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, respectful, positive treatment and discussions on gender and sexuality helps LGBTQ students feel safe, seen, valued, and respected, and decreases the educational, mental, and physical harms that they experience; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach is a diverse and inclusive community and has demonstrated a long history of opposing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, among other categories; and

WHEREAS, at the September 11, 2024 regular Board meeting, the School Board will consider H-10, an initiative sponsored by School Board member Lucia Baez Geller to recognize and observe October 2024 as LGBTQ History Month in a way that complies with state and federal law and School Board Policies; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission urge the School Board of Miami-Dade County to recognize October 2024 as LGBTQ History Month in compliance with state, federal, and School Board policies.

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 urge the School Board of Miami-Dade County to recognize October 2024 as LGBTQ History Month in a way that complies with state and federal law and School Board policies.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Attest:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Vice-Mayor Alex J. Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

9/4/2024

Date