

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020- 2694**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, DECLARING A COMMITMENT TO PROTECT THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND TO COMBAT HATEFUL ACTIONS DUE TO THE COVID-19 HEALTH PANDEMIC; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, on March 1, 2020, the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order Number 20-51 directing the State Health Officer and Surgeon General to declare a Public Health Emergency due to the discovery of COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) in Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the Town of Surfside (“Town”) adopted Resolution No. 2020-2676, declaring a State of Emergency due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town continues to respond to the threats posed by COVID-19 in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents, businesses, employees and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has infected more than 6,229,408 individuals worldwide, and more than 376,973 confirmed deaths worldwide as of June 1, 2020, according to John Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, and 1,787,680 cases and 104,396 deaths have been reported in the United States according to the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, as of June 1, 2020, affecting individuals of all races, national and ethnic backgrounds, and religions; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 will not be stopped by political boundaries and was not created or caused by any race, nationality or ethnicity, extremists are taking advantage of COVID-19 by spreading hateful ideologies using geographic descriptors that can fuel ethnic, racial and religious discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, Individuals are wrongly being blamed for the COVID-19 pandemic, causing an increased frequency of hate crimes, discrimination, and aggression towards these groups; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a public health crisis, and the use of racial, or ethnic terms, such as “Chinese virus” or “Kung-Flu virus”, to describe COVID-19 encourages hate crimes against Asians and furthers the spread of misinformation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jewish community has been targeted with blame, hate, anti-Semitic conspiracy theories about the community creating, spreading, and profiting from COVID-19 at a time when communities should be working together to overcome the COVID-19 emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, Because of ongoing systemic Anti-Blackness, a Black Miami Doctor who assisted and tested the homeless for COVID-19 in Overtown, was handcuffed in front of his home; and

**WHEREAS**, According to the League of United Latin American Citizens, 4 out of 5 Latino workers are considered essential workers, therefore they are being exposed to COVID-19 in ways that many American workers are not; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical that the Town take leadership and stand in solidarity with its Asian, Jewish, Black and Latino communities to denounce discriminatory and hate-motivated behavior and violence towards them and provide equal treatment for its residents and international visitors as we confront the prejudices of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, all residents and visitors of Surfside are encouraged to treat each other with respect and strive to keep every person safe during this unprecedented pandemic and beyond, all individuals are encouraged to report hateful speech, violent action, and the spread of misinformation related to COVID-19 to the proper authorities for discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Commission finds that this Resolution is in the best interest and welfare of the residents of the Town.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Recitals.** The recitals are true and correct and incorporated in the Resolution.

**Section 2. Declaration.** The Town Commission hereby declares the Town's commitment to protecting the safety and welfare of all community members by denouncing all forms of bigotry and hateful speech, violent action, and the spread of misinformation related to the COVID-19 health pandemic.

**Section 3. Implementation.** The Town Manager and/or designees are hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to implement the purposes of this Resolution.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Paul  
Second By: Commissioner Kesl

**FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION:**

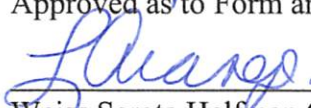
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|----------------------------------|------------|
| Commissioner Charles Kesl        | <u>Yes</u> |
| Commissioner Eliana R. Salzhauer | <u>Yes</u> |
| Commissioner Nelly Velasquez     | <u>No</u>  |
| Vice Mayor Tina Paul             | <u>Yes</u> |
| Mayor Charles W. Burkett         | <u>Yes</u> |

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra Novoa, MMC  
Town Clerk

  
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Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency:

  
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Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.  
Town Attorney