

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-2787

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, DECLARING THE TOWN'S COMMITMENT TO CULTIVATING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THE RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS WILL BE PROTECTED AND RESPECTED BY CONDEMNING HATE AND EXTREMISM; PROVIDING FOR DECLARATIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside ("Town") is committed to defending democratic institutions, the integrity of our elections, and the security of people and institutions that carry out the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, the Town is committed to ending the spread of hate, bigotry, and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected characteristic as defined by law; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of all of its community members and to ensure that they will be protected and their rights respected; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission wishes to affirm its commitment to cultivating an inclusive community, including within the Town operations and institutions; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of our community is beneficial to all within it, making us stronger and more resilient; and

WHEREAS, as elected leaders, the Town Commission has the ability and obligation to promote inclusiveness; celebrate diversity; work to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society; prevent the spread of misinformation and disinformation; and reject hate and bias in all forms and should set a positive example for their constituents in this regard; and

WHEREAS, the January 6, 2021 domestic terrorism incident at our nation's Capitol does not reflect the values of the Town of Surfside; and

WHEREAS, disinformation, misinformation, and online conspiracy theories such as QAnon are spreading and inspiring real-world violence; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission passed Resolution 2020-2694 on May 26, 2020, 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; and

WHEREAS, the Town supports the peaceful exercise of free speech, free assembly, and freedom to worship safely for all people; 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 this resolution.

Section 2. Declarations. The Town Commission affirms its ongoing commitment to cultivating an inclusive, safe, and just society and culture including within the Town operations and institutions that values the diversity of our community, works to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society, and celebrates both our individuality and commonality.

The Town Commission denounces the January 6, 2021 domestic terrorism incident at our nation's Capitol and anti-government extremism, white supremacy, racism, antisemitism, misogyny, Islamophobia, anti-LGBTQ+ hate, ableism, and all hateful speech and bias-motivated violent actions in our community.

The Town Commission further denounces extremist conspiracy theories, misinformation, and disinformation that cultivate an alienated and mistrustful electorate, undermine democratic institutions and processes, and increase the likelihood of violence and attempts to exploit governmental procedure and basic government functions for personal political gain.

The Town Commission commits to fostering an environment within Town operations and institutions that does not tolerate anti-government extremist, white supremacist, racist, anti-Semitic, misogynist, Islamophobic, anti-LGBTQ+, ableist, and other hateful speech and actions.

The Town Commission commits to countering hate and extremism through engagement with community leaders, governmental transparency and public information-sharing regarding efforts to fight extremism, and the investigation and prosecution of those who commit criminal acts, consistent with civil liberties protections.

The Town Commission urges residents to join us by adopting these values in their own lives, calling attention to these harms, and denouncing hate and extremism to help keep us all safe.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of May, 2021.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Paul
Second By: Commissioner Salzhauer

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION:

Commissioner Charles Kesl	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Eliana R. Salzhauer	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Nelly Velazquez	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Tina Paul	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Charles W. Burkett	<u>Yes</u>



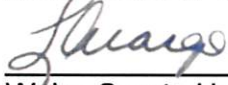
Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra N. McCready, MMC, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE
AND BENEFIT OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE ONLY:



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