

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(9)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 7, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution declaring April 2023
and April of each year thereafter
as "Autism Acceptance Month";
and establishing as County policy
that the rainbow infinity sign
shall be designated as the official
symbol for autism acceptance in
all County communications
celebrating Autism Acceptance
Month

Resolution No. R-218-23

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 7, 2023

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(9)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☐ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(9)
3-7-23

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-218-23

RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL 2023 AND APRIL OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER AS “AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH”; AND ESTABLISHING AS COUNTY POLICY THAT THE RAINBOW INFINITY SIGN SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS THE OFFICIAL SYMBOL FOR AUTISM ACCEPTANCE IN ALL COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CELEBRATING AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

WHEREAS, in an effort to show support for individuals and families affected by autism, on April 21, 2009, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-444-09, declaring April as Autism Awareness Month in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, more recently, advocates for and members of the neurodivergent community have shifted away from “Autism Awareness Month” towards “Autism Acceptance Month,” in recognition of the need to integrate individuals on the autism spectrum more fully into society; and

WHEREAS, for example, the Autism Society of America uses the term “Autism Acceptance Month” instead of “Autism Awareness Month” to encourage society to improve opportunities for neurodivergent individuals in education, employment, accessible housing, and affordable health care; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, autism advocacy organizations adopted a puzzle piece as the symbol for autism inclusion to illustrate the need for more research on autism and the desire to fit individuals with autism into society; and

WHEREAS, more recently advocates have moved away from the puzzle piece symbol because it can create the impression that autism is a riddle to be solved or that those with autism are incomplete; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, advocates adopted a rainbow infinity sign as the symbol for autism inclusion instead of the puzzle piece to signify that autism is a spectrum and to encourage society to understand autistic individuals as neurodivergent rather than disabled; and

WHEREAS, this Board seeks to adopt the terminology and symbolism used by advocates and members of the community in order to better express its support of neurodivergent diversity,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

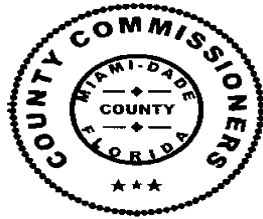
Section 1. Declares April 2023 and April of each year thereafter as “Autism Acceptance Month” instead of “Autism Awareness Month.”

Section 2. Establishes as County policy that the rainbow infinity sign shall be designated as the official symbol for Autism Acceptance Month, rather than the puzzle piece, in all communications issued by Miami-Dade County celebrating Autism Acceptance Month.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Raquel A. Regalado. It was offered by Commissioner **Anthony Rodriguez**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Marleine Bastien** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman	aye		
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	absent
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of March, 2023. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LUIS G. MONTALDO, CLERK AD INTERIM

By: **Basia Pruna**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

SMG

Sophia Guzzo
Melanie J. Spencer