

RESOLUTION NO. 22-1849

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, URGING THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COLLEGE TO AMEND AGE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESS TO PUBLICLY FUNDED EDUCATION FOR ADULTS DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER OVER THE AGE OF TWENTY ONE (21); PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE HOPE FOR AUTISM LETTER TO GOVERNOR DESANTIS; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE TOWN CLERK; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (CID/RUANO)

WHEREAS, during the May 2022 Town of Miami Lakes Council meeting, the Town Council directed the Town Attorney to draft a resolution in support of changes to age-limit eligibilities for adults, diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, for state-funded education provided by Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Miami-Dade College; and

WHEREAS, adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder face social and economic challenges that stem from their inability to fully integrate into societal norms; and

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder can affect an adult's ability to communicate, manage finances, and engage in meaningful employment; and

WHEREAS, Autistic Adults share the same rights that all American Citizens enjoy, yet public institutions are poorly equipped to provide the necessary services they require; and

WHEREAS, the Town has a large Autistic population of children and adults that urgently need public help; and

WHEREAS, under current Miami-Dade County Public Schools regulations, students may continue their studies at public institutions through their twenty first (21) birthday. Past their twenty first (21) birthday there are no public educational institutions that provide educational programs to Autistic Adults; and

WHEREAS, as the result of Miami-Dade County Public Schools age-limit, many Autistic Adults are forced to seclude themselves with parents and extended families; and

WHEREAS, raising the age eligibility requirement for access to publicly funded education through Miami-Dade School Board or Miami-Dade College, would provide autistic adults with the ability to gain additional skills and provide them a venue to be productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, Autistic adults through the State of Florida suffer from the lack of available public programs and available employment; and

WHEREAS, Town residents, members of Hope for Autism, have drafted a letter urging Governor DeSantis to foster State initiatives that will improve public service to Autistic adults throughout the State. A true and correct copy of the Hope for Autism letter is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that it is in the best interest to support Hope for Autism's letter to Governor DeSantis, and urges Miami-Dade College and the School Board of Miami-Dade to increase age eligibility for publicly funded education for adults suffering from Autism Spectrum Disorder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section1. Recitals. The foregoing Recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section2. Requesting School Board of Miami-Dade County to Raise the Age Limit for access to Public School Education. The Town Council urges the School Board of Miami-Dade County to raise the age-limit from twenty-one years of age for Autistic Adults in order to allow them the opportunity to continue public school education and programing beyond their twenty first birthday.

Section 3. Urging Miami-Dade College to coordinate with the School Board of Miami-Dade County to provide access to publicly funded education programing for Autistic Adults.
The Town Council request that Miami-Dade College coordinate with the School Board of Miami-

Dade County to provide Autistic Adults with access to publicly funded education and programming.

Section 4. Town Council Support of Hope for Autism’s letter to Governor DeSantis requesting expansion of publicly funded State programs for Autistic Adults.

The Town Council pledges their support of Hope for Autism’s letter to Governor DeSantis’, enclosed herein as Exhibit “A,” and joins in Hope for Autism’s request for the expansion of publicly funded State opportunities, programs and protections for Autistic Adults.

Section 5. Instructions to the Clerk. The Town Clerk is hereby instructed to provide a copy of this Resolution to Miami-Dade College’s President, the School Board of Miami-Dade County’s Chairwoman, the Office of the Governor of the State of Florida.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

***** THIS PORTION HAS BEEN LEFT PURPOSEFULLY LEFT BLANK *****

Passed and adopted this 12th day of July 2022

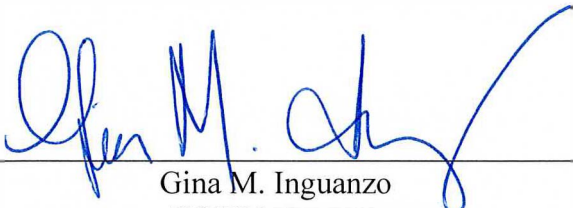
The foregoing resolution was offered by Councilmember Alvarez who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Manny Cid	Yes
Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rodriguez	Yes
Councilmember Carlos O. Alvarez	Yes
Councilmember Luis E. Collazo	Yes
Councilmember Josh Dieguez	Yes
Councilmember Tony Fernandez	Yes
Councilmember Marilyn Ruano	Yes




MANNY CID
MAYOR

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo
TOWN CLERK

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:



Raul Gastesi, Jr.
Gastesi, Lopez and Mestre, PLLC
TOWN ATTORNEY