



## RESOLUTION # 2024-42

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST MIAMI, FLORIDA DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO DEVELOP AN "OCCUPANTS WITH AUTISM" DECAL PROGRAM AND ENGAGE THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI – NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISABILITIES (CARD) TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL AGREEMENT FOR PROVIDING CITYWIDE AUTISM AWARENESS AND INFORMATION SERVICES; TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TRAINING TO THE CITY OF WEST MIAMI POLICE OFFICERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, failure to identify communication differences and lack of awareness and training in recognizing behavior and sensory sensitivities can lead to negative outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities is uniquely qualified for such counseling and training; and

**WHEREAS**, CARD estimates that a significant number of individuals suffering with autism reside in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the need for specialized communications and intervention strategies, the City of West Miami seeks to empower its First Responders including police officers, to better serve the neurodivergent community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Miami-Dade County, North Miami Beach and Hialeah Police Departments provide "Occupant with Autism" decals to residents who request such decals to notify first responders that there is an individual in their vehicle or home with ASD; and

**WHEREAS**, to achieve this goal, it is proposed that the City of West Miami study the feasibility of entering into an agreement with CARD to provide tailored training programs to its police department and First Responders focusing on best practices for on-scene crisis interventions and de-escalation techniques when interacting with persons with ASD; and

**WHEREAS**, when First Responders and police officers are made aware that an occupant with ASD may be present, those responders can draw on their ASD training and tailor their response to better communicate with and serve the individual with ASD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST MIAMI THAT:

**Section 1.** The foregoing "whereas" clauses and heading are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption thereof.

**Section 2.** The City Commission realizes the importance of understanding behavioral difficulties of persons with ASD and directs the City Manager to communicate with the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disability for the purpose of implementing a program of awareness and training of First Responders and police officers to better understand, communicate with, and serve the neurodivergent community.

**Section 3.** Directs the City Manager to (1) develop an "Occupant with Autism" program through which the West Miami Police Department can provide "Occupant with Autism" decals, free of charge, to residents who wish to notify first responders that there is an individual with autism spectrum disorder in their home or vehicle, and (2) create a website through which City of West Miami residents can voluntarily provide information to the West Miami Police Department about individuals in their household with autism spectrum disorder.

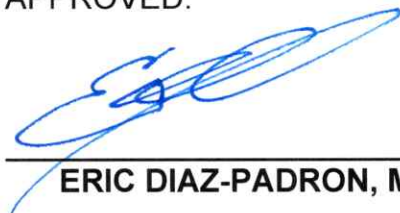
**Section 4.** The City Manager is directed to identify sources of financing programs to establish the CARD program not to exceed \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**Section 5.** The City Manager shall report back to the City Commission the feasibility of entering into an agreement with CARD.

**Section 6.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage by the City Commission and signature of the Mayor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

APPROVED:



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**ERIC DIAZ-PADRON, MAYOR**

ATTEST:



ANNERY GONZALEZ, MMC  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND SUFFICIENCY:



JOSE A. VILLALOBOS, CITY ATTORNEY

ROLL CALL VOTE:

This Resolution was offered by Vice-Mayor Milian Orbis who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Blanes. The vote was as follows:

MAYOR ERIC DIAZ-PADRON	<u>Y</u>
VICE-MAYOR NATALIE MILIAN ORBIS	<u>Y</u>
COMMISSIONER JUAN M. BLANES	<u>Y</u>
COMMISSIONER IVAN CHAVEZ, JR.	<u>Y</u>
COMMISSIONER LUCIANO L. SUAREZ	<u>Absent</u>