



RESOLUTION 2025 - 17

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST MIAMI, FLORIDA, RELATING TO AUTISM; ESTABLISHING APRIL AS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH IN THE CITY OF WEST MIAMI; URGING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THE MIAMI-DADE SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM AUTISM DECAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Milian Orbis)*

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental condition that affects communication, behavior, and sensory processing, often requiring specialized responses from First Responders, including fire-rescue and law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Miami has taken proactive steps to establish an "Occupants with Autism" decal program to enhance awareness and facilitate improved communication between First Responders and neurodivergent individuals; the City has also undertaken efforts to train its officers and staff; and

WHEREAS, similar autism decal programs have been implemented in various municipalities, including Miami-Dade County, North Miami Beach, and Hialeah, but a lack of uniformity across jurisdictions may cause confusion for First Responders operating in multiple areas; and

WHEREAS, creating a single, countywide autism decal with a designated space to identify the issuing municipality/jurisdiction would ensure consistency, **reduce confusion**, and allow for better coordination among police departments and First Responders across Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County, in conjunction with the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, may be best positioned to take the lead in establishing a standardized regional autism decal program that can be adopted by all municipalities within the County; and

WHEREAS, establishing April as Autism Acceptance Month and designating the Autism Infinity symbol as a recognized emblem of support and inclusion will promote awareness, understanding, and acceptance of individuals with autism within the City of West Miami; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of West Miami, as follows:

Section 1: Call for a Countywide Uniform Autism Decal Program

The City of West Miami urges Miami-Dade County and the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office to take the lead in creating a countywide uniform autism decal to replace or unify the various municipal decals currently in use.

Section 2: Standardization to Prevent Confusion

1. The countywide decal should have a consistent design to avoid confusion when First Responders operate across multiple jurisdictions.
2. A designated space on the decal should allow for optional city identification, ensuring that each municipality can participate while maintaining a uniform appearance across the county.

Section 3: Acknowledgment of Local Efforts

The City of West Miami affirms its commitment to autism awareness and notes that it has already implemented an autism decal program in alignment with best practices. However, the City urges Miami-Dade County to streamline and unify this effort for the benefit of all residents.

Section 4: Implementation & Next Steps

1. The City Clerk shall transmit this Resolution to the Miami-Dade County Commission and the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office for consideration.
2. The City encourages the County to engage with municipalities, First Responders, and autism advocacy groups to ensure a seamless transition to a countywide decal program.

Section 5: Effective Date

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of April 2025.

APPROVED:



ERIC DIAZ-PADRON, MAYOR

ATTEST:



**ANNERY GONZALEZ, MMC
CITY CLERK**

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



DEXTER W. LEHTINEN, 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 IVAN CHAVEZ, JR.	<u>Y</u>
COMMISSIONER JUAN M. BLANES	<u>Y</u>
COMMISSIONER LUCIANO L. SUAREZ	<u>Y</u>