

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 6, 2021

SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF

COMMISSIONER DALE V. C. HOLNESS



Office of the Sheriff

April 5, 2021

The Honorable Mayor Steve Geller The Honorable Broward County Commission Broward County Government Center 115 South Andrews Ave., Room 411 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Mayor Geller and Commissioners:

I am writing today to express support for a Community ID Program for Broward County. Today, Broward County has thousands of residents who lack identification for a variety of reasons. Whether homeless, undocumented, formerly incarcerated, or elderly, these and other bureaucratically challenged residents do not have access to many basic and vital services.

A Community ID would provide cardholders with a reliable form of identification that can be used as a tool by law enforcement, County departments, health centers, schools, businesses, and cultural art organizations to better identify and serve residents. A Community ID may also assist in building better relations with impacted residents. We anticipate that individuals with Community IDs will be more willing to come forward to report crimes, participate in community activities, and access vital health services such as COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

If adopted by the Commission, the Broward Sheriff's Office will recognize an approved Community ID as a form of identification, but not for official law enforcement activities involving arrests, traffic stops, and other reasonable suspicion detentions.

Community ID programs have improved public safety in multiple jurisdictions in Florida and across the nation. We at BSO believe a Community ID program will do the same in Broward County.

Sincerely,

enous long Sheriff Gregory Tony

Sheriff Gregory Jony Broward County

Service Equals Reward

cc: Broward County Administrator, Bertha Henry

2601 West Broward Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312 • 954.321.4118 • Fax 954.797.0936