

PROPOSED

RESOLUTION NO.

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD
2 COUNTY, FLORIDA, REAFFIRMING SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY WATER
3 FLUORIDATION TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENT TOOTH DECAY;
4 RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL ROLE OF WATER FLUORIDATION AND PROVIDING
5 FOR CONTINUED ADVOCACY OF FLUORIDATION IN PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS;
6 PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR
7 SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

8 (Sponsored by Commissioner Steve Geller)

9
10 WHEREAS, over seventy years of scientific research and practical experience
11 consistently demonstrate that community water fluoridation is safe and effective;

12 WHEREAS, in 1945 Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community water
13 system to add fluoride to its water, resulting in a sixty percent reduction in dental cavities
14 among children over a ten-year period;

15 WHEREAS, in 1974 the federal government enacted the Safe Drinking Water Act,
16 providing the framework for ensuring safe levels of naturally occurring fluoride and any
17 added fluoride in public drinking water systems;

18 WHEREAS, in compliance with state and federal drinking water standards,
19 Broward County Water and Wastewater Services began adding fluoride to potable water;

20 WHEREAS, in 2015 the U.S. Public Health Service updated the fluoride drinking
21 water standard to an optimal concentration of 0.7 milligrams per liter (mg/L) to provide the
22 best balance of protection from tooth decay while minimizing the risk of dental fluorosis;

23 WHEREAS, seventy-seven percent of all Americans presently served by public
24 water systems have access to fluoridated water;

25 WHEREAS, the American Dental Association (ADA) acknowledges the fluoridation
26 of community water supplies as the single most effective public health measure to prevent
27 tooth decay, with studies showing that water fluoridation reduces tooth decay by more
28 than twenty-five percent, despite widespread fluoride availability from other sources like
29 toothpaste;

30 WHEREAS, reputable scientific studies show that fluoride concentrations below
31 1.5 mg/L have no adverse impacts on human health and do not lead to cognitive
32 impairment;

33 WHEREAS, the ADA determined that water fluoridation is the most cost-efficient
34 method of preventing tooth decay, with the lifetime cost of water fluoridation for
35 one person being less than the cost of one dental filling, and strongly supports community
36 water fluoridation as a safe, effective, cost-saving, and equitable way to prevent tooth
37 decay;

38 WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes community
39 water fluoridation as one of the ten greatest public health achievements of the 20th
40 century, benefiting everyone, particularly those without access to regular dental care,
41 thereby making it a vital tool in advancing social justice and health equity;

42 WHEREAS, U.S. courts consistently uphold water fluoridation as a lawful and
43 proper means of advancing public health and welfare;

44 WHEREAS, all twenty-seven Broward County public water suppliers add fluoride
45 to their water systems, maintaining fluoride levels at or below the federally recommended
46 0.7 mg/L; and

47 WHEREAS, the County's public water supply will remain compliant with the
48 federal guidelines and the County urges other Broward County public water suppliers to
49 continue fluoridating their water systems consistent with those guidelines, NOW,
50 THEREFORE,

51 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
52 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

53 Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida
54 ("Board"), reaffirms its support for the fluoridation of community water supplies as a
55 proven public health measure to prevent tooth decay and promote oral health for all
56 residents.

57 Section 2. The Board recognizes the critical role water fluoridation plays in
58 ensuring access to efficient, preventive oral health care which helps protects the health
59 and welfare of Broward County residents.

60 Section 3. The Board hereby directs the County Administrator to transmit
61 certified copies of this Resolution to all Broward County municipalities and water
62 providers.

63 Section 4. Severability.

64 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid
65 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this
66 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be

