

PROPOSED

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVILITY IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Senator Nan H. Rich)

WHEREAS, the Public Square is the place where matters involving governance are discussed and decided;

WHEREAS, the Public Square in the process of local government is primarily the City Hall or County Commission Chamber, the public place where legislators execute their constitutionally mandated duties and responsibilities, and the place where the execution of these duties and responsibilities is on public display;

WHEREAS, civility by commissioners and councilpersons in the execution of their legislative duties and responsibilities fosters respect, kindness, and thoughtfulness between commissioners and councilpersons, one to the other, and naturally results in the efforts of such actions to be directed to issues and not to cause personal ill will;

WHEREAS, civility by commissioners and councilpersons promotes civil behavior between citizens, one to the other;

WHEREAS, civility between commissioners and councilpersons promotes thoughtful debate and discussion of legislative issues, resulting in better policy;

WHEREAS, civility between citizens promotes thoughtful debate of legislative issues, resulting in a more informed electorate;

WHEREAS, civility between commissioners and councilpersons is in keeping with the democratic model of self-governance as envisioned by the Founders;

1 WHEREAS, civility between commissioners and councilpersons presents an
2 opportunity to set a positive example of conduct; and

3 WHEREAS, civility between commissioners and councilpersons is possible if each
4 legislator remembers that he or she represents not himself or herself but the constituents
5 of his or her district, city or county, so the conduct of a legislator is a reflection of his or
6 her constituents, NOW, THEREFORE,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
9 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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11 Section 1. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners ("Board")
12 endorses the concept of Civility in the Public Square as a means of conducting legislative
13 duties and responsibilities.

14 Section 2. The Board encourages the citizens of Broward County to be civil in
15 discussions and debates of matters under consideration in the Public Square.

16 Section 3. Severability.

17 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid
18 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this
19 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be
20 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such
21 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,
22 group, entity, property, or circumstance.

