

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - 053

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF MUNICIPALITIES THROUGH THE "#SAFERBY4" INITIATIVE TO REDUCE PREVENTABLE CHILD DEATHS DUE TO DROWNING AND SLEEP HABITS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, recent changes to the Florida Statutes now allow the Florida Department of Children and Families to broadly share child fatality information, which is useful in informing and educating communities about causes of child deaths; and

WHEREAS, over 200 child deaths have been reported to the Department of Children and Families in Broward County over the last five years, an average of one death every ten days; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of all child fatalities reported to the Department of Children and Families resulted from drowning and accidental suffocation or strangulation from an unsafe sleep environment; and

WHEREAS, the most prevalent cause of death of children under one year of age was accidental suffocation or strangulation from an unsafe sleep environment; and

WHEREAS, 77% of the Broward County children who died in the last five years were ages 3 and under; and

WHEREAS, information and education can greatly contribute to preventing deaths from drowning and unsafe sleep; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families is working together with the Children's Services Council of Broward, the Florida Department of Health in Broward County, Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies, and other organizations to inform and educate families about actions and steps to prevent child fatalities; and

WHEREAS, as part of their overall prevention strategy, the Department of Children and Families is requesting the assistance of all Broward County municipalities in reducing, if not eliminating, these preventable tragedies to safely get young children to their fourth birthday; and

WHEREAS, the "#saferby4" initiative was established to raise awareness, to assist, to inform and to educate families and municipalities about strategies and steps to prevent child fatalities; and

WHEREAS, first responders play a role in identifying high risk environments and providing educational opportunities to avert preventable child deaths due to drowning and unsafe sleep habits; and

WHEREAS, strategies include, providing DOSE ("direct on scene education") training for all Broward County first responders; increasing funding for swimming and pool safety instruction which is currently available for school aged children attending elementary schools participating in the Swim Central program to children from six months old to four (4) years old; securing community and organization support to provide a safe sleeping area for infants including cribs; and evaluating each municipalities risk reduction efforts through engineering, education, and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, municipalities, through their ability to communicate to the residents, civic associations, interfaith community and other organizations as well as the ability to coalesce resources, must take a leadership role in the "#saferby4" initiative to include collaboration on innovative educational and prevention strategies and sharing "best practices" for reducing preventable child deaths due to drowning and unsafe sleep habits; and

WHEREAS, as part of the overall prevention strategy, municipalities have been asked to take the pledge to become a "#saferby4" community in Broward County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida:

Section 1: The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified as true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2: The Town of Southwest Ranches supports the "#saferby4" initiative.

Section 3: The Town of Southwest Ranches encourages health care institutions, municipalities, and all first responders, to support the "#saferby4" initiative and to collaborate on strategies aimed at reducing, if not eliminating, preventable child deaths due to drowning and unsafe sleep habits.

Section 4: The Town Clerk is hereby directed to distribute a copy of this Resolution to each municipality in Broward County, the Broward Chiefs of Police

Association, the Broward Fire Chiefs Association, the Department of Children and Families, and the Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

Section 5: Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest

Ranches, Florida, this 11th day of June, 2015, on a motion by

Jim McKay and seconded by Jim Breitkreuz.

Nelson	<u>Yes</u>
Fisikelli	<u>Yes</u>
Breitkreuz	<u>Yes</u>
Jablonski	<u>Yes</u>
McKay	<u>Yes</u>

Ayes	<u>5</u>
Nays	<u>0</u>
Absent	<u>0</u>
Abstaining	<u>0</u>

Jeff Nelson
Jeff Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Russell Muñiz
Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:

Keith M. Poliakoff
Keith M. Poliakoff, Town Attorney

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