

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY TO EXPLORE ALL ALTERNATIVES TO CLOSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SEEKING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PREFERRED RIGHT TO PURCHASE, AT FAIR MARKET VALUE, ANY SURPLUS SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD.

WHEREAS, a school is more than a building and more than an educational institution, and in many cases, public schools are the heart of a community and one of the cherished places where neighbors meet and share experiences that bind people together, thereby shaping the identity and spirit of our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City has a long history of supporting high-quality public educational opportunities for its residents through collaborations and agreements with the School Board of Broward County ("School Board"), and seeks to encourage the School Board to continue to fund and operate all current Broward County Public Schools ("BCPS") within the City of Hollywood; and

WHEREAS, BCPS is currently facing an enrollment shortfall of roughly 50,000 students, and the School Board has indicated that a realignment of school district resources must be undertaken to ensure BCPS can provide high quality instruction and enrichment to meet the needs of current and future students; and

WHEREAS, the City currently has thousands of new housing units either planned or under construction that will result in additional students for BCPS; and

WHEREAS, among the strategies the School Board is considering to "right-size" the school district is the closure of an undetermined number of underenrolled school facilities across Broward County; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of managing and repurposing school properties the School Board determines are surplus in a manner that best serves the public interest and promotes community development within the City; and

WHEREAS, should the closure of public schools be deemed necessary, it is only right that the local jurisdiction, which is most attuned to the needs of its residents, be allowed to address the serious impacts of such closures through a community-based vision and plan for the future by having the right to purchase any surplus School Board properties located within the City of Hollywood.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA.

Section 1: That the foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are incorporated in this Resolution.

Section 2: That the City Commission finds and expresses its opinion that any decisions regarding school closures should include a provision granting the City a Preferred Right to Purchase at Fair Market Value any surplus School Board of Broward County property within the City's jurisdiction, ensuring that the City can thoughtfully determine the most beneficial future uses of these properties.

Section 3: That the City Commission urges the School Board of Broward County to collaborate closely with the City in the planning and execution of any such closures, with a focus on transparency, respectful community engagement, and the equitable treatment of all neighborhoods affected by these critical decisions.

Section 4: That the City Clerk shall forward this Resolution to the School Board of Broward County, Florida, the Broward County Commission, and to all cities located in Broward County, Florida.

Section 5: That This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

JOSH LEVY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

PATRICIA A. CERNY, MMC
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DOUGLAS R. GONZALES
CITY ATTORNEY