

## PROPOSED

### RESOLUTION NO. 2018-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CITIES FOR CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE; DIRECTING AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ACTIONS SO THAT BROWARD COUNTY MAY BE DESIGNATED AS A PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY IN THE CITIES FOR CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO DEVELOP A CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR GRANTS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CITIZENS FOR CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SUBMIT A REPORT REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITIES FOR CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the United States has always been a home to those seeking freedom, opportunity, and refuge from persecution and who have become lawful permanent residents and pursued their American Dreams, helping to build our nation and contributing with their hard work; and

WHEREAS, there are over 8.8 million immigrants in the United States who are currently eligible to become citizens; and

WHEREAS, 1.17 million of the nation's lawful permanent residents reside in Florida and, of those, approximately 835,097 are eligible to become citizens through naturalization; and

WHEREAS, a recent study conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center found that roughly one-third of immigrants eligible to naturalize fail to do so for reasons that include, but are not limited to, the cost and complexity of the citizenship process; and

1 WHEREAS, when immigrants naturalize, they have made an affirmative decision  
2 to study English, U.S. history and government, and swear allegiance to our Constitution;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, naturalization provides benefits to lawful permanent residents by  
5 providing them with full civil and political rights, protection against deportation, easier  
6 travel abroad, and full access to government jobs and assistance; and

7 WHEREAS, naturalized citizens have higher income, generate more taxes,  
8 connect with their neighbors more easily, and assume their full rights and responsibilities  
9 in this country, to proudly say “America is Home”; and

10 WHEREAS, research suggests that a targeted initiative to reach out to and assist  
11 the 112,863 Broward County residents who are eligible for citizenship could provide a  
12 significant boost to our local economy as these individuals are more likely to invest in the  
13 local economy, which they now identify as their home; and

14 WHEREAS, Cities for Citizenship is a collaboration co-chaired by the mayors of  
15 Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York that was established to promote large-scale  
16 naturalization campaigns in metropolitan areas with large immigrant populations; and

17 WHEREAS, participating metropolitan areas in Cities for Citizenship include  
18 Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chattanooga, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Nashville, New  
19 York City, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Redding, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, participating communities are required to commit to (1) track  
22 naturalization numbers and report those figures regularly to the Cities for Citizenship  
23 Leadership Council, (2) establish a target for annual naturalization numbers,

1 (3) participate in at least one Cities for Citizenship initiative each year, and (4) share  
2 citizenship initiative materials and plans with the Cities for Citizenship initiative; and

3 WHEREAS, Cities for Citizenship has launched the “America is Home” initiative,  
4 which will, among other things, provide two-year challenge grants to promote citizenship  
5 programs and provide scholarships to grantees to attend the National Immigrant  
6 Integration Conference in December 2018; and

7 WHEREAS, Broward County is an ideal location for the Cities for Citizenship  
8 initiative due to its considerable immigrant population and the extensive existing network  
9 of profit, nonprofit, and governmental organizations, that currently and capably work  
10 towards reducing the barriers deterring lawful permanent residents from becoming  
11 citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida  
13 (“Board”), currently supports programs with the Florida Immigrant Coalition and the  
14 Community Access Center, which have processed citizenship applications for  
15 approximately 3,000 individuals, 85% of whom were eligible for fee waivers; and

16 WHEREAS, the Board wishes to express its support for the Citizens for Citizenship  
17 initiative and to authorize the County Administrator to take all actions necessary so that  
18 Broward County may join the Citizens for Citizenship initiative, NOW, THEREFORE,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
21 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

22  
23 Section 1. The recitals set forth in the preamble to this Resolution are true,  
24 accurate, and incorporated by reference herein as though set forth in full hereunder.

1           Section 2.    The Board hereby expresses its support for the Cities for Citizenship  
2 initiative and its goals of increasing the number of lawful permanent residents throughout  
3 the country who become citizens.

4  
5           Section 3.    The Board directs and authorizes the County Administrator to take  
6 all necessary administrative and budgetary actions for Broward County to be designated  
7 a participating community of Cities for Citizenship.

8  
9           Section 4.    The County Administrator is authorized and directed to develop a  
10 plan to launch an initiative in Fiscal Year 2018-2019 that will promote increasing the  
11 number of lawful permanent residents in Broward County who apply for citizenship  
12 ("Citizenship Initiative"). The Citizenship Initiative shall include, but not be limited to, the  
13 following: (1) completing and submitting the Participant Form or other required  
14 application; (2) partnering with local organizations to assist with naturalization efforts  
15 countywide; (3) providing in-kind services to promote naturalization efforts, including, but  
16 not limited to, hosting citizenship clinics, recruiting, training, and assisting both legal and  
17 nonlegal volunteers, and publicizing the dates, times, and locations of citizenship clinics  
18 or other organized events; (4) providing incentives to encourage eligible County  
19 employees to apply for citizenship; (5) supporting the swearing-in ceremonies for Broward  
20 County residents who become citizens; and (6) engaging in any other activities necessary  
21 for designation as a participating community in Cities for Citizenship. Naturalization  
22 efforts can include (1) information sessions where the process to obtain citizenship will  
23 be explained to interested residents, (2) document preparation sessions where staff and  
24 volunteers will help applicants to compile and complete the necessary documents, and

1 (3) application completion sessions where residents can obtain assistance for completing  
2 applications under the legal supervision of volunteer law students and lawyers. The  
3 Citizenship Initiative shall have the goal of serving 10,000 eligible Broward County  
4 residents by 2020.

5  
6 Section 5. The County Administrator is authorized and directed to apply for the  
7 challenge grants and other resources available as part of the Cities for Citizenship  
8 “America is Home” initiative.

9  
10 Section 6. The County Administrator is directed to submit a report to the Board,  
11 no later than ninety (90) days after the effective date of this Resolution, and to place the  
12 completed report on the agenda of the Board. The report shall, at a minimum, include  
13 details regarding the manner in which the Citizenship Initiative will be implemented, the  
14 fiscal impact of implementing the Citizenship Initiative, any funding sources identified to  
15 fund the implementation, and the current status of any implementation.

16  
17 Section 7. SEVERABILITY.

18 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid  
19 portion shall be stricken, and such striking shall not affect the validity of the remainder of  
20 this Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, or any portion hereof, cannot  
21 be legally applied to any individual(s), group(s), entity(ies), property(ies), or  
22 circumstance(s), such determination shall not affect the applicability hereof to any other  
23 individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance.

Section 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this            day of            , 2018.

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:  
Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

By /s/ Annika E. Ashton 06/07/18  
Annika E. Ashton  
Senior Assistant County Attorney

**PROPOSED**

AEA/mdw  
06/07/18  
CitiesforCitizenshipResolution  
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