



400 South Federal Hwy
Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

City of Hallandale Beach City Commission Agenda Cover Memo

Meeting Date:	March 1, 2017		Item Type: (Enter X in box)	Resolution X	Ordinance	Other	
Fiscal Impact: (Enter X in box)	Yes	No	Ordinance Reading: (Enter X in box)	1st Reading		2nd Reading	
		X	Public Hearing: (Enter X in box)	Yes	No	Yes	No
Funding Source:	N/A		Advertising Requirement: (Enter X in box)	Yes		No	
						X	
Account Balance:	N/A		Quasi Judicial: (Enter X in box)	Yes		No	
						X	
Project Number :	N/A		RFP/RFQ/Bid Number:	N/A			
Contract/P.O. Required: (Enter X in box)	Yes	No	Strategic Plan Priority Area: (Enter X in box) Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality <input type="checkbox"/> Vibrant Appeal <input type="checkbox"/>				
		X					
Sponsor Name:	Commissioner Michele Lazarow		Department: City Clerk	Mario Bataille, City Clerk			

Short Title:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 416 AND HOUSE BILL 151 RELATING TO PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING MINORS OR CERTAIN OTHER PERSONS; PROVIDING THAT JUDGES MAY ALLOW THE USE OF CERTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS OR FACILITY DOGS IN PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING ABUSE, ABANDONMENT, OR NEGLECT; ALLOWING SUCH ANIMALS TO BE USED WHEN TAKING THE TESTIMONY OF CERTAIN OTHER PERSONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Staff Summary:

Background:

Commissioner Michele Lazarow requested staff bring forward a Resolution supporting Senate Bill 416, co-sponsored by Senators Bill Montford and Lauren F. Brook, and House Bill 151, co-sponsored by Representatives Jason T. Brodeur, Jared E. Moskowitz, Jayer Williamson.

Florida Statue 92.55 authorizes a trial court to enter any order necessary to protect a child victim or witness, a person who has an intellectual disability or a sexual offense victim or witness of any age from severe emotional or mental harm due to the presence of the defendant. The court may also allow the use of service or therapy animals to assist a child victim or witness, or a sexual offense victim or witness, in a sexual offense proceeding. In addition, currently support animals must be evaluated and registered according to national standards. Local courts utilizing such animals typically develop detailed requirements for their use.

SB 416 and HB 151 are similar companion state legislative bills relating to the use of animals in proceedings involving minors. If adopted by the Florida Legislature, both bills would expand the list of proceedings in which support animals may be used to include any proceeding involving child abuse, abandonment, or neglect; and expand the categories of allowable animals to include a "facility dog". In addition the proposed legislation removes the requirement for registration of an animal pursuant to national standards, and replaces it with a requirement that an animal be trained and evaluated according to industry standards.

By approving the attached Resolution, the City Commission would be supporting an amendment to Florida Statue 92.55 *"Judicial or other proceedings involving victim or witness under the age of 16, a person who has an intellectual disability, or a sexual offense victim or witness; special protections; use of registered service or therapy animals."*

Why Action is Necessary:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 5.01 of the City of Hallandale Beach Charter, a Resolution adopted by the Commission is an expression of the Commission on matters of official concern and opinion.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

Proposed Action:

The City Commission consider the attached Resolution supporting SB 416 and HB 151 relating to the use of animals in proceedings involving minors.

Attachment(s):

Exhibit 1 - Resolution