

1 EXHIBIT 1

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3 RESOLUTION NO. 2017 -

4 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY
5 COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH,
6 FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 416 AND
7 HOUSE BILL 151 RELATING TO PROCEEDINGS
8 INVOLVING MINORS OR CERTAIN OTHER PERSONS;
9 PROVIDING THAT JUDGES MAY ALLOW THE USE OF
10 CERTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS OR FACILITY DOGS IN
11 PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING ABUSE, ABANDONMENT,
12 OR NEGLECT; ALLOWING SUCH ANIMALS TO BE USED
13 WHEN TAKING THE TESTIMONY OF CERTAIN OTHER
14 PERSONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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17 **WHEREAS**, scientific research shows that animals significantly reduce
18 physiological and behavioral distress in children, including a lowering of heart rate and
19 blood pressure; and

20 **WHEREAS**, current law authorizes a trial court to enter any order necessary to
21 protect a child victim or witness, a person who has an intellectual disability or a sexual
22 offense victim or witness of any age from severe emotional or mental harm due to the
23 presence of the defendant. The court may also allow the use of service or therapy animals
24 to assist a child victim or witness, or a sexual offense victim or witness, in a sexual offense
25 proceeding; and

26 **WHEREAS**, currently support animals must be evaluated and registered according
27 to national standards. Local courts utilizing such animals typically develop detailed
28 requirements for their use; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 416 and House Bill 151 would expand the list of
30 proceedings in which support animals may be used to include any proceeding involving
31 child abuse, abandonment, or neglect; and expand the categories of allowable animals to
32 include a "facility dog"; and

33 **WHEREAS**, the proposed legislation allows a court to set any conditions it finds
34 just and appropriate when taking the testimony of a person who has an intellectual
35 disability, including the use of a service animal, therapy animal, or facility dog; and

36 **WHEREAS**, the proposed legislation removes the requirement for registration of
37 an animal pursuant to national standards, and replaces it with a requirement that an animal
38 be trained and evaluated according to industry standards.

