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RESOLUTION NO. 2020-43

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE
VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, CELEBRATING THE
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE AND RATIFICATION
OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
UNITED STATES, PROVIDING FOR WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE;
PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing and protecting women’s right to vote; and

WHEREAS, women first organized and collectively fought for suffrage at the national level in July of 1848. Suffragists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott convened a meeting of over 300 people in Seneca Falls, New York; culminating in the now-famous 1848 Declaration of Sentiments, which mimicked Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence by proclaiming “all men *and women* are created equal;” and,

WHEREAS, in the following decades, women marched, protested, lobbied and even went to jail; by the late 1800’s regional suffrage organizations began to form in states across the United States advocating for women’s rights to vote; and by the 1870s, women pressured Congress to vote on an amendment that would recognize their suffrage rights; this amendment, sometimes known as the Susan B. Anthony amendment, became the 19th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, in 1893, Ella C. Chamberlain founded the Florida Women’s Suffrage Association to start a state campaign; but, it took 20 years for the Equal Franchise League of Jacksonville to petition the Florida Legislature to consider a bill recognizing women’s suffrage rights, citizens spoke at a packed hearing in the Florida Capitol Building, and that petition was rejected in April 1913; and

WHEREAS, women and allies to the movement continued to organize on a national level, and after decades of arguments for and against women’s suffrage, on May 21, 1919 the United States House of Representatives approved a proposed amendment, followed by the Senate a few weeks later on June 4, 1919; and

WHEREAS, upon the United States Congress’s approval, states across the country held special sessions on ratification, and on August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, meeting the required three-fourths of the then 48 states to be added to the Constitution, and eight days later, on August 26, 1920 the 19th Amendment was certified into the United States Constitution, protecting American women’s right to vote; and¹

WHEREAS, this centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to elevate women’s history and to commemorate a milestone of democracy; that the right of citizens of these United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the federal or state governments on account of gender; and

¹ Florida showed support for women’s right to vote by becoming the 43rd state to ratify the amendment on May 13, 1969.

1
2 **WHEREAS**, most of the women who began asking for the right to vote never lived to see the
3 enfranchisement of women, but today more than 68 million American women vote in elections because
4 of the courageous suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality; and
5

6 **WHEREAS**, women are running for office in unprecedented numbers, and we encourage current
7 politicians, both male and female, to remember that they follow in the footsteps of those great suffragists.
8

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE**
10 **VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, THAT:**

11
12 **Section 1.** **Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct, and incorporated herein by this
13 reference and are hereby adopted as the legislative and administrative findings of the Village Commission.
14

15 **Section 2.** **Resolve.** The Village Commission hereby resolves to:

- 16 a. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment
17 to the Constitution of the United States, providing for women’s suffrage;
- 18 b. Honor the role of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in further promoting the core
19 values of our democracy as promised by the Constitution of the United States;
- 20 c. Reaffirm the opportunity for people of the United States to learn about and
21 commemorate the efforts of the women’s suffrage movement and the role of women in
22 our democracy; and,
- 23 d. Reaffirm the Commission’s role and urge all government agencies of the State of
24 Florida and these United States to continue to strengthen democratic participation and
25 to inspire future generations to cherish and preserve the historic precedent established
26 under the 19th Amendment.
27

28 **Section 3.** **Transmittal.** The Village Clerk is instructed to furnish copies of this Resolution
29 to the appropriate officials, including U.S. Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, U.S. Representatives
30 Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Frederica Wilson, Florida Governor Ron Desantis, the Miami Dade
31 County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, the Florida League of Cities and the Miami Dade
32 County League of Cities.
33

34 **Section 4.** **Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause or phrase herein is held to be invalid
35 by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the
36 remaining portions of this Resolution.
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38 **Section 5.** **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its
39 adoption.
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PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of September, 2020.

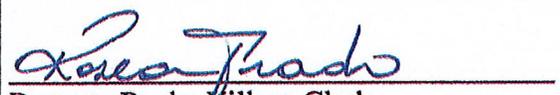
The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner Ross, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Mayor O'Halpin, and upon being put to a vote the vote was as follows:

Virginia O'Halpin, Mayor	Yes
Macdonald Kennedy, Vice Mayor	Yes
Daniel Samaria, Commissioner	Yes
Roxanna Ross, Commissioner	Yes
William Tudor, Commissioner	Yes

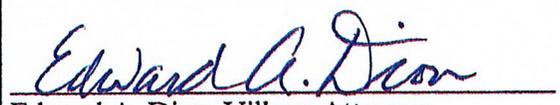
VILLAGE OF BISCA YNE PARK


Virginia O'Halpin, Mayor

ATTEST:


Roseann Prado, Village Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCA YNE PARK ONLY:


Edward A. Dion, Village Attorney