



Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE DIVISION

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 329H • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-519-1270 • FAX 954-519-1496

September 6, 2016

Lee Feldman, City Manager
100 N. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Mr. Feldman,

Broward County recently received a request from the Loggerhead Marinelife Center (LMC, www.marinelife.org), a non-profit sea turtle research, rehabilitation, and education facility, for partnerships with nearby towns and counties to ban the use of balloons in areas by the coast. In 2014, Broward County enacted a party balloon ban for all County-owned natural areas in order to support the Board of County Commissioners' goal of creating and sustaining a pristine and healthy environment. As your municipality has recreational and park facilities located along the coast, we encourage your adoption of the party balloon ban if you have not done so already.

As Florida supports 70 percent of the nation's sea turtle nesting, and Broward County supports over 3 percent of all nesting activity in Florida, it is important that protective measures are taken in order to reduce threats to sea turtles. Balloons are often released, purposefully or by accident, and end up littering parks, beaches, and the ocean. During the Broward County Sea Turtle Conversation Program's (STCP) nesting surveys, an alarming number of balloons were collected and disposed of on a daily basis. Deflated balloons resemble jellyfish, a main staple of some sea turtles' diet. Ingestion often results in a need for treatment or can cause death. Promotion of a healthy environment and protection of wildlife from marine debris, such as balloons, is important in order to ensure a resilient habitat for future generations.

Due to the detrimental impacts to the environment and the potential impact of an ingested balloon, we are requesting your consideration of a similar Party Balloon Ban at municipal parks to support sea turtle and marinelife conservation. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions or if we can be of support in pursuing this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer L. Jurado".

Jennifer L. Jurado, Ph.D., Director
Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division

Enclosure: Sample resolution

cc: Bertha Henry, County Administrator
Henry Sniezek, Director, Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department
Nicole Sharp, Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division
Dan West, Director, Parks and Recreation Division

Broward County Board of County Commissioners
Mark Bogen • Beam Furr • Dale V.C. Holness • Martin David Kiar • Chip LaMarca • Stacy Ritter • Tim Ryan • Barbara Sharief • Lois Wexler
www.broward.org

Sea Turtle Party Balloon Ban Resolution 2016 -

A RESOLUTION OF THE [ENTER NAME OF GOVERNING BODY]
TO SUPPORT THE BROWARD COUNTY SEA TURTLE
CONSERVATION PROGRAM TO CONSERVE SUITABLE SEA
TURTLE COASTS.

WHEREAS, the coastal environment is a vital part of the South Florida lifestyle, providing recreational and educational opportunities and experiences for local residents as well as tourists from across the state, nation and globe; and

WHEREAS, promoting a healthy environment, and protecting beach and marine resources, is of paramount importance to ensure a resilient habitat for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Florida supports 70 percent of the nation's sea turtle nesting, and Broward County supports over 3 percent of all nesting activity in Florida; and

WHEREAS, [ENTER NAME OF GOVERNING BODY] is a coastal municipality in Broward County, and Broward County's 24 miles of coastal habitat supports over 3 percent of all Florida Loggerhead sea turtle nesting activity, over 2 percent for all Green sea turtle nesting activity, and over 2 percent for all Leatherback sea turtle nesting activity; and

WHEREAS, adult female sea turtles, including Loggerhead, Green and Leatherback species, return to the same beaches where they were hatched to lay their eggs for the next generation; and

WHEREAS, balloons are often released, purposefully or by accident, and end up littering parks, beaches, and the ocean, and during the Broward County Sea Turtle Conversation Program's nesting surveys, an alarming number of balloons are collected and disposed of on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, deflated balloons resemble jellyfish, a main staple of some sea turtles' diet; ingestion often results in a need for treatment or can cause death; and

WHEREAS, [ENTER NAME OF GOVERNING BODY], in conjunction with a highly utilized beach and reef, aims to minimize human impact on nearshore and nesting sea turtles; and

WHEREAS, as a measure for ensuring sea turtle protection, [ENTER NAME OF GOVERNING BODY] supports the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program; and

WHEREAS, in support of the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program, the [ENTER NAME OF GOVERNING BODY], and the [ENTER NAME OF DIVISION/DEPARTMENT], has adopted a Party Balloon Ban; and

WHEREAS, the Balloon Ban guidelines state that party balloons, made mostly of natural latex or metallized nylon, are filled with air, helium, water, or any other suitable liquid or gas, and when released or disposed of improperly, the debris can land anywhere and litter the environment; become entangles in power lines causing outages; and pose a serious hazard to animals (including sea turtles) through ingestion or entanglement; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program to continue to deliver the benefits of conservation and outreach efforts, Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program has requested that [ENTER NAME OF MUNICIPALITY] pursue a Party Balloon Ban and utilize the available resources in order to help maintain suitable nesting habitat for the imperiled sea turtle species and other wildlife in Broward County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to supporting the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program's goal of creating and sustaining a pristine and healthy environment, [ENTER NAME OF GOVERNING BODY] establishes the following guidelines for the use of party balloons by the public on [ENTER NAME OF MUNICIPALITY] property; and

WHEREAS, party balloon releases are not permitted on any [ENTER NAME OF MUNICIPALITY] property; and

WHEREAS, balloons are not permitted to be set up, tied up, or displayed, indoors or outdoors at the following locations: natural areas, nature centers, aquatic areas, or marinas in [ENTER NAME OF MUNICIPALITY]; and

WHEREAS, balloons are permitted at all neighborhood and [ENTER NAME OF MUNICIPALITY] parks, excluding areas noted above, provided they are deflated and disposed of properly at the end of any gathering, rental or event; and

WHEREAS, NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE [ENTER NAME OF GOVERNING BODY]:

Section 1. The [ENTER NAME OF GOVERNING BODY] hereby encourages [ENTER NAME OF MUNICIPALITY] agencies, City Managers, Park Managers, vendors, and current or potential partners to prioritize a Party Balloon Ban and promote imperiled species conservation.

Section 2. Copies of this Resolution shall be distributed to [ENTER NAME OF MUNICIPALITY] agencies.

Section 3. Month DD, 2016.

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this day , 2016.