

RESOLUTION 17-296

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL AND STATE OF FLORIDA MOTTO "IN GOD WE TRUST" IN THE CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS ALONG WITH THE CITY'S LOGO; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, "In God We Trust" is the official motto of the United States and has been an integral part of United States society since its founding; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2011, in the 1st Session of the 112th Congress, the House of Representatives approved a Concurrent Resolution reaffirming "In God We Trust" as the official motto of the United States and supporting and encouraging the public display of the national motto in all public buildings, public schools, and other government institutions; and

WHEREAS, the words "In God We Trust" appear over the entrance to the Senate Chamber, above the Speaker's rostrum in the House Chamber and on all paper currency which is legal tender in the United States; and

WHEREAS, President Eisenhower said and President Ford repeated, "Without God, there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life"; and

WHEREAS; the organization In God We Trust-America, Inc. started a campaign to promote Patriotism by encouraging Elected Officials to legally display the Congressional approved National Motto in every City, County Chamber, and State Capitol in America; and

WHEREAS, "In God We Trust" was adopted by the Florida Legislature as part of the state seal in 1868 and in 2006, was officially designated in state statute as the State of Florida's motto; and

WHEREAS, the motto "In God We Trust" is an example of "ceremonial deism," a term used by Dean Rostow, Dean of the Yale Law School, as quoted in the Book Review, Religion and American Constitutions, by Wilber G. Katz, by Arthur E. Sutherland, 40 Indiana Law Journal, Vol. 40 (1964), which "can be accepted as so conventional and uncontroversial as to be constitutional"; and

WHEREAS, as of today, twenty-one Cities and Counties in the State of Florida have approved displaying the National Motto "In God We Trust" in their public buildings; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has determined that the City should support the National and State of Florida's Motto "In God We Trust" by displaying it in the City Commission Chambers above the City's logo;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, hereby supports the display of the National and Florida Motto "In God We Trust" in the City Commission Chambers along with the City's logo.

SECTION 2. The City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, directs the City Manager to take all necessary steps to effectuate this resolution.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

ADOPTED this the 19th day of December, 2017.



Mayor
JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER

ATTEST:



City Clerk
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI