



Memorandum

Date: April 10, 2024

To: Mayor Christi Fraga
Vice Mayor Oscar Puig-Corve
Councilwoman Digna Cabral
Councilwoman Maureen Porras

From: Councilman Rafael Pineyro

Subject: **Request for Municipal Sponsorships**

Introduction

The City of Doral has a long-standing tradition of providing sponsorships to a carefully selected array of events, programs, services, and charitable organizations that serve our community's municipal purpose and are aligned with the city's overarching goals.

In our continued commitment to supporting non-profit organizations that embody our core values and significantly contribute to the well-being of our community, I am pleased to propose sponsorship for three foundations. These organizations not only align with our established vision, mission, and values but also demonstrate a commitment to making a substantial impact in Doral:

- Fundacion Rayito de Luz: Dedicated to assisting special needs children, including those with conditions such as Down syndrome, Autism, and Cerebral Palsy, through unconventional therapy.
- Mystic Force Foundation: Committed to raising awareness and funds for childhood cancer research and support.
- Interamerican Designers Association- IDA: A foundation dedicated to generating social well-being through culture and art, IDA focuses on assisting immigrant professionals from the Americas in the design field.

Background

1. Fundacion Rayito de Luz (the “Foundation”)

Rayito de Luz, established in Doral in 2009, is a non-profit local organization dedicated to supporting children with disabilities and vulnerable families. At the heart of their work is a special program that integrates both conventional therapies, such as occupational, physical, and dialogue therapy, as well as unconventional therapies, including aqua therapy, equine therapy, and dolphin therapy. These unconventional therapies utilize dolphins and horses as mediums for rehabilitation, catering to children with nerve damage, physical, and mental conditions.

Rayito de Luz serves children facing various challenges, including Down syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Prader-Willi Syndrome, Angelman Syndrome, among others. Through swimming, they provide a unique avenue for improving physical abilities, instilling strength in these children to pursue their goals and reignite their hope.

In accordance with Section 2-79 of Municipal Sponsorships, I propose a donation of \$1,500.00 (One thousand, five hundred dollars) to Fundacion Rayito de Luz.

2. Mystic Force Foundation

The Mystic Force Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity dedicated to raising awareness and funds for Childhood Cancer Research. They offer crucial support to children and families as they navigate through the challenges of battling this devastating disease.

Children fighting cancer often lose their childhood innocence following a diagnosis, and maintaining a sense of normalcy through play and fun becomes integral to their journey. For the past 13 years, the Mystic Force Foundation has been hosting monthly inpatient Family Fun Nights at Nicklaus Children’s Hospital and at their Heroes Hangout—a whimsical Childhood Cancer Haven. These events cater to hundreds of children from around the world receiving treatment in South Florida hospitals.

Among the beneficiaries of this support is a very special resident of Doral, Megan Venus, affectionately known as “Megan the Warrior”. Megan, diagnosed with Leukemia at the age of 7 while attending Bridgeprep, embodies resilience and courage. Both Megan and her family have expressed gratitude for the unwavering support provided by the Mystic Force Foundation.

In accordance with Section 2-79 of Municipal Sponsorships, I propose a donation of \$2,000.00 (Two thousand dollars) to the Mystic Force Foundation.

3. *The Interamerican Designers Association (IDA)*

The Interamerican Designers Association (IDA) is a non-profit organization headquartered in Doral. Dedicated to supporting its members, IDA provides a comprehensive platform offering networking opportunities, educational resources, licensures, products, services, programs, and information tailored to meet their professional needs.

IDA has played a pivotal role in bringing globally renowned artists to the City of Doral, hosting exhibitions, and organizing cultural events such as SUMARTE in 2023.

With over 1,300 awards and more than 100 publications to its name, the Interamerican Designers Association has established itself as a leader in the field. They have developed an institutional platform that integrates architects, visual artists, urban planners, and other design professionals. This platform aims to promote their involvement in both private and public initiatives focused on enhancing the environmental quality of spaces and communities.

In accordance with Section 2-79 of Municipal Sponsorships, I propose a donation of \$1,500.00 (One thousand five hundred dollars) to the Interamerican Designers Association.

Fiscal Impact

In accordance with Section 2-79 of Municipal Sponsorships (Item C, Sponsorship Opportunities; Section D(1), Eligible Applicants/Non-Profit Organizations), each councilmember is allocated \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Dollars) per fiscal year, subject to annual city budget approval. This funding is designated to sponsor special events for eligible applicants whose events and programs align with the city's mission and provide significant community benefits. Item is \$5,000.00 from Account #001.10005.50049B.

Recommendation

I kindly request the support of my colleagues for this sponsorship initiative, as it will not only benefit these foundations that contribute so much to others but also have a positive impact on our community. By backing these foundations, we aim to directly benefit our residents while upholding our city's values of compassion, inclusivity, and community support.

Each of the selected foundations champions distinct causes that are integral to the fabric of our society and closely aligns with the aspirations of the City of Doral. Through their dedication and hard work, they have proven themselves as catalysts for positive change, enriching the lives of countless individuals.