



CITY OF DORAL COUNCIL MEETING MEMORANDUM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

ITEM TITLE:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL SPONSORSHIPS TO EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$600.00); VENEZOLANOS Y AMERICANOS INC DBA VEAMERICA, IN THE AMOUNT OF SIX HUNDRED AND 00/100 (\$600.00); MY VOICE COUNTS CHARITIES FOUNDATION INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$600.00); AND RAYITO DE LUZ CORP, IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$700.00) PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-79 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

BRIEF HISTORY:

Educational Foundation for Democracy INC is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering civic engagement and democratic values through educational initiatives. The foundation specializes in providing programs that empower residents—particularly youth and immigrant populations—with the knowledge of civic rights, the importance of voting, and the fundamentals of constitutional governance. By hosting workshops and seminars, the organization helps bridge the gap between residents and local government, ensuring a more informed and active Doral community.

Venezuelanos y Americanos INC DBA VEAMERICA is a community-focused organization providing essential integration and support services to the diverse population of Doral. Operating with a mission to strengthen the bonds between Venezuelan and American cultures, VEAMERICA offers programs that include professional networking, entrepreneurial guidance, and cultural advocacy. The organization plays a vital role in the social and economic fabric of the city by assisting new residents in navigating local systems while promoting a spirit of inclusivity and bilateral cooperation.

My Voice Counts Charities Foundation Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Orlando, Florida, dedicated to advancing social equity and human rights for immigrant and refugee communities. Under the leadership of CEO Mildred Rodríguez, the foundation focuses on removing systemic barriers and empowering vulnerable populations to participate in the social and economic development of their territories. Officially incorporated in March 2022, the entity is recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt philanthropic and educational organization, allowing it to leverage public support for its multifaceted advocacy

campaigns. The foundation is most prominently known for its national leadership in the movement for the Venezuelan Adjustment Act (H.R. 1348), a bipartisan legislative effort aimed at providing permanent residency to eligible Venezuelan nationals in the United States. To support this mission, the organization conducts critical data-gathering initiatives, such as the National Census of Venezuelan Entrepreneurs, to highlight the economic contributions of immigrants to U.S. legislators. Beyond immigration reform, the foundation maintains a diverse advocacy portfolio that includes anti-bullying programs, social inclusion projects, and climate change initiatives, consistently bridging the gap between grassroots needs and congressional action.

Rayito de Luz Corp. (also known as the Rayito de Luz Foundation) is a Florida-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing therapeutic and educational support for children with disabilities. Based in Doral, the foundation specializes in alternative rehabilitation treatments, including aqua therapy, equine therapy, and dolphin therapy, designed to improve the physical and neurological well-being of children with special needs. It is led by Ricky Russian, who also serves as the founder of the Wet Dolphin Swimming Academy, creating a seamless partnership between clinical rehabilitation and aquatic skill-building.

Working hand in hand, Rayito de Luz and Wet Dolphin Swimming Academy host community-focused initiatives such as "Swimming for a Special Child," which offers free aquatic therapies to children who might otherwise lack access. While the academy provides certified American Red Cross swim instruction and drowning prevention programs for all ages, its collaboration with the foundation ensures that children with neurological or orthopedic conditions receive specialized, one-on-one attention in the water. This partnership effectively bridges the gap between recreational swimming and medical therapy, leveraging a shared mission to enhance the safety and independence of vulnerable youth in the South Florida community.

These sponsorships align with the City of Doral's mission and strategic goals by supporting social service programs that promote community engagement, resilience, and wellbeing. The Foundations' continued outreach has helped bridge critical gaps in service and offers valuable support to vulnerable populations within our city.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION: (IF APPLICABLE)

Date:	Resolution/Ordinance No.	Comments

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The proposed item has a fiscal impact on revenues and/or expenditures in the amount of:

\$50,000.00 or less

\$50,000.00 or more

RECOMMENDATION:

I am respectfully requesting approval for these municipal sponsorships pursuant to Section 2-79 of the City's Code of Ordinances.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- A. Non-Profit Information
- B. Draft Resolution.