

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the lives of hundreds of children could be saved each year if communities take steps to make pedestrian safety a priority; and,

WHEREAS, a lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity, diabetes and other health problems among children and being able to walk or bicycle to school offers an opportunity to build activity into daily routine; and

WHEREAS, driving students to school by private vehicle contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution, and that driving students to school by private vehicle is 70x more dangerous than taking a school bus; and,

WHEREAS, an important role for parents and caregivers is to teach children about pedestrian safety and become aware of the difficulties and dangers that children face on their trip to school each day and the health and environmental risks related to physical inactivity and air pollution; and,

WHEREAS, community leaders and parents can determine the "walkability" of their community by using a walkability checklist; and,

WHEREAS, community members and leaders should make a plan to make immediate changes to enable children to safely walk and bicycle in our communities and develop a list of suggestions for improvements that can be done over time; and,

WHEREAS, children, parents and community leaders around the world are joining together to walk to school and evaluate walking and bicycling conditions in their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SHELLY PETROLIA, Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim October 5th as:

NATIONAL WALK OR BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

in the City of Delray Beach, Florida, and urge all citizens, schools, businesses and community organizations to join with me in recognizing the value and the need for safe routes for walking and bicycling within our community and for our students and children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, to be affixed this ____ day of _____, 2022.

SHELLY PETROLIA
MAYOR