

WHEREAS, the GOL ILUMINADO FOUNDATION Inc. founded in 2007 by FIFA Legend Elias Figueroa, is a 501(c)(3) Federal Non-Profit. Its mission is to use sport as a conduit for implementing educational initiatives for families and children in need and at risk through 'Education Through Sport' Legacy Projects, aiming to build a peaceful and better world through the Olympic Ideal; and

WHEREAS, KOP Mentoring Network is a nonprofit organization founded by C. Ron Allen that has been, since 1991, empowering youth to reach their fullest potential by providing them with positive mentors and educational opportunities through various academy and camp experiences; and

WHEREAS, KOP Mentoring Network's commitment to learning, growth, and character development helps youth accelerate academically and behaviorally; and

WHEREAS, Players For Peace was created in collaboration with the late United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and assisted in evolving the *United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace* through UN Resolution 56/75 on "Building a Peaceful and Better World through Sport and the Olympic Ideal"; and

WHEREAS, on a communication level, 'SPORT' can be used as an effective delivery mechanism for education about peace, tolerance, and respect for opponents, regardless of ethnic, cultural, religious or other differences... The inclusive nature of sport is a useful tool to increase knowledge, understanding and awareness about peaceful co-existence; and

WHEREAS, Sport based development activities ensure that this powerful and diverse element of civil society becomes an active and committed force in the global partnership for development... a true formula of 'peace'; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, two times FIFA World Player of The Year Ronaldo de Assis Moreira (aka: Ronaldinho) was appointed the first *Goodwill Ambassador* for the *United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace*. Ronaldinho has since collaborated with the United Nations in the building of a *culture of peace*, working as an *Ambassador of Goodwill* to assist the UN System with its initiatives of Development, Education and Peace projects worldwide; and

WHEREAS, both organizations have created the "StarMakers: Fit Bodies, Fit Minds" program to empower school-age students in Delray Beach to thrive academically, physically, and emotionally. By combining literacy, fitness, and athlete mentorship, we can create a positive impact on their overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, global football icon Ronaldinho will serve as an Ambassador through his Players For Peace R10 FUTSAL project to encourage and inspire local youth to develop a love for reading and promote physical and mental health of school age children and youth; and

WHEREAS, by leveraging Ronaldinho and other athletes as Ambassadors, we believe hundreds of young people in Delray Beach will be inspired to "Be Playful, Be Magical" and embrace healthy lifestyles while nurturing their love for reading; and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness about utilizing *Education Through Sport* to promote positive physical and emotional wellbeing can change negative attitudes and behaviors towards mental illnesses.

NOW THEREFORE, I, THOMAS F. CARNEY, Jr., Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim July 19, 2024 as:

Ronaldo de Assis Moreira aka "Ronaldinho" Fit Bodies, Fit Minds Day

in the City of Delray Beach, encouraging all young people to "Be Playful, Be Magical". I also call upon the citizens, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in our city to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of using *Education Through Sport* initiatives to promote positive physical and mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions.

**THOMAS F. CARNEY, JR.,
MAYOR**