

WHEREAS, recycling is a process that allows materials that would otherwise be wasted to be manufactured into new materials that can be used again. By decreasing landfill waste and conserving important natural resources, recycling can mitigate pollution, save energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, many common items such as paper, cardboard, food and beverage containers made from plastics, aluminum and glass are known to be recyclable, but so are many other household products, such as cleaners, pesticides, rechargeable batteries, paints and electronics; and

WHEREAS, traditional recycling began in Palm Beach County with pilot programs in 1988 and the dual stream recycling program was implemented countywide in 1992, with the current dual stream Recovered Materials Recycling Facility opening in 2009; and

WHEREAS, home chemical recycling began in Palm Beach County with STOP – or Stop Throwing Out Pollutants - collection events in 1988-89, then a permanent Home Chemical and Recycling Center opened in 1990, and Home Chemical and Recycling drop offs were added at all six transfer stations as they were constructed so residents countywide had convenient disposal options; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency released the 2020 Recycling Economic Information Report, which showed that recycling and reuse activities in the United States accounted for: 681,000 jobs, \$37.8 billion in wages, and \$5.5 billion in tax revenues. (<https://www.epa.gov/smm/recycling-economic-information-rei-report>); and

WHEREAS, using recycled material in manufacturing processes in place of virgin raw materials reduces energy demand by more than 75%;

WHEREAS, locally, in 2010, the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County created a Recycling Revenue Share Program, in which half of the traditional recycling revenue the SWA generates – after processing costs – is shared with participating cities based off of their population or collected weight. Since the Recycling Revenue Share Program began, the SWA has shared close to \$10 million with partnering cities; and

WHEREAS, “Rethink. Reset. Recycle.” is a new approach designed to eliminate non-recyclable materials from the recycling stream, saving as much as \$100 million in operating costs; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach county residents and businesses “Recycled Right,” reaching a recycling rate of 80% in 2022, the highest rate among all counties in the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City of Delray Beach recognizes November 15, 2023, as

America Recycles Day

in Delray Beach, and hereby encourages all residents to continue to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink their waste whether they are at work, home, school or play, and to Recycle Right every day by putting the correct items in their blue and yellow recycle bins!

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 7th day of November 2023.

Shelly Petrolia
MAYOR