

**WHEREAS**, the Sister City Program was initiated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 as an avenue to open communication and a means to promote friendship and understanding between nations and lessen the chance of future world conflicts; and

**WHEREAS**, the relationship between the people of Miyazu, Japan, and Delray Beach, Florida, actually began at the turn of the century when the Florida East Coast Railway helped Jo Sakai establish the Yamato Colony along the railroad near Boca Raton; and

**WHEREAS** among those early settlers was George Sukeji Morikami, whose hometown was Miyazu, Japan, and who later donated his land near Delray Beach to the County of Palm Beach and which now is home to the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens; and

**WHEREAS** the Sister City program serves as a vehicle to bring people of different geographic areas of the world together. To that end, the City of Delray Beach, Florida and Miyazu, Japan established a Sister City Affiliation in April 1977; and

**WHEREAS** during the past 41 years, our communities have had city officials and citizens exchange visits and have established Student and Business Exchange Programs. Delray Beach Sister Cities is enthusiastically sending its tenth Student Exchange delegation to Miyazu, Japan on June 8, 2018, and

**WHEREAS**, the relationship between Miyazu and Delray Beach brings about a great sense of brotherhood, friendship and amity between our two great cities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, SHELLY PETROLIA**, Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission and citizens of Delray Beach, do hereby recognize:

**Stephanie Altamirano**  
**Ashley Backus**  
**Josh Bowes**  
**Rebecca Lepp**  
**Megan O'Connor**  
**Neissa Philemon**  
**Dylan Tran**

as Student Ambassadors representing the City of Delray Beach. We send our best wishes for good health and fortune to all the citizens, and especially the Students, of Miyazu, Japan, and extend our hands in friendship and peace.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018.

---

**SHELLY PETROLIA**  
**MAYOR**