

WHEREAS, mediation is an informal and non-adversarial process in which a neutral and impartial third party aims to facilitate communication and negotiation between the disputing parties, and to help them reach a mutually acceptable and voluntary agreement, without prescribing what it should be; and

WHEREAS, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), including mediation, has been utilized by the Florida court system to resolve disputes for over 30 years, offering litigants court-connected opportunities to resolve their disputes without judicial intervention; and

WHEREAS, the state of Florida is nationally recognized as a leader in the growing ADR field, with one of the most comprehensive court-connected mediation programs in the country; and

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Bar Association through its Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, seeks to promote the use and value of ADR processes to lawyers, the judiciary, and the public, and considers that these processes help parties resolve disputes without a trial in a less costly and more timely and satisfying manner; and

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WHEREAS, the American Bar Association has declared the third week in October as Mediation Week in celebration of the strides made in institutionalizing mediation as one of several appropriate dispute resolution processes; and

WHEREAS, mediation along with the principles and practices it embodies--like self-determination as to process and outcome, open communication, and collaborative problem solving--can be a crucial tool for peacemaking between and among individuals, groups, units, neighborhoods, and governments, as well as in workplaces; and

WHEREAS, the City of Delray Beach expresses its appreciation to the Palm Beach County Bar Association, and especially to the members of its ADR Committee, for their efforts in promoting alternative dispute resolution throughout Palm Beach County.

NOW THEREFORE, I, SHELLY PETROLIA, Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, Florida do hereby proclaim October 19, 2020 - October 23, 2020 as:

MEDIATION WEEK

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 6th day of October 2020.

Shelly Petrolia
MAYOR