



City of North Port

Office of the City Manager

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January 29, 2019

The Honorable John Holic
Mayor
City of Venice
401 West Venice Ave.
Venice, FL 34285

Dear Mayor Holic:

On January 22, 2019, the City Commission for the City of North Port unanimously passed Resolution No. 2019-R-02 which urges members of the Florida Legislature to support child welfare reform in Florida to ensure a safe environment is provided to those who cannot protect themselves and to reduce community impacts statewide. The City of North Port requests that you adopt and transmit a similar resolution of support to the Governor and other appropriate State officials.

The City of North Port, Florida's community leaders responded to the recent death of Jordan Belliveau by developing a task force to address much needed changes to the Florida Department of Children and Families ("DCF"). The task force's findings and recommendations are attached as part of the resolution. This task force was made up of individuals with child welfare experience directly or indirectly.

Statistically, 82% of children fatalities within the DCF system are under the age of 3 and 39% of the fatalities have had prior involvement with DCF. Florida's child population has increased by 1.8% compared to the National decrease of 0.5%. The need for legislative action is further evidenced by recent events in Largo, Florida and by the numerous child fatalities each year in Florida.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Lear, CPA, CGMA
City Manager

PDL/srt

Enclosure