

RESOLUTION NO. R 020 19

A RESOLUTION PLEDGING SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR THE BEACON MIDDLE SCHOOL NEVER LET THEM GO AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, Americans have many reasons and ways to celebrate life's special moments, be it weddings, baby announcements, graduations, birthdays and anniversaries; and

WHEREAS, increasingly such celebrations are punctuated by balloon releases, which serve as a visible show of joy and jubilation, but mask a more sullied and sinister side; and

WHEREAS, balloons released into the air inevitably find their way back to earth, trashing our forests, shorelines, waterways, and other natural settings; and

WHEREAS, the party balloon industry is a \$220 million enterprise annually in the United States, with many products marketed for the growing trend of balloon releases; and

WHEREAS, balloons often marketed as 'environmentally friendly' or 'biodegradable' can nonetheless take weeks, months, even years to fully break down, and in that time, the remnants litter the landscape and pose a risk to wildlife that can become entangled or mistake the debris as food; and

WHEREAS, education is the key to changing minds and methods; and

WHEREAS, the Beacon Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team's Never Let Them Go campaign, born out of the students' participation in a beach cleanup event, is aimed at bringing about awareness, education and prevention to combat the harm balloon releases represent to our environment and wildlife by encouraging the public to look for alternatives to balloon releases, such as re-usable banners and flags, or planting memorial trees and gardens; and

WHEREAS, through youth-driven efforts such as the Never Let Them Go campaign, everyone in our community has a chance to make a meaningful contribution that will protect our environment for today's generation, and those to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sussex County Council does hereby join with the students of the Beacon Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team in proclaiming its support for their Never Let Them Go initiative, and encourages all citizens to do their part to keep balloons from littering and harming our precious environment.

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF RESOLUTION NO. R 020 19 ADOPTED BY THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE 29TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2019.

**ROBIN A. GRIFFITH
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**