

WHEREAS, approximately one in every four students experiences bullying and nearly all students will witness bullying during their years in school; and

WHEREAS, many researchers have concluded that bullying is the most common form of violence and research shows that bullying can lead to depression, substance abuse, poor health, delinquency and poor academic performance; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014, with the support of more than ten financial partners, the City of Orlando launched Stand Up Orlando to publicly demonstrate our commitment to bullying prevention; and

WHEREAS, Stand Up Orlando includes a partnership with the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center (Holocaust Center) to provide anti-bullying programming in all City of Orlando middle schools and with the Zebra Coalition to host a bullying prevention awareness campaign and provide educational resources for teachers, guidance counselors, faith based and after school leaders so our entire community is equipped to help in the anti-bullying efforts; and

WHEREAS, since we launched Stand Up Orlando, more than 2,000 middle school students have visited the Holocaust Center, encountering the history and lessons of the Holocaust and learning the value of speaking out against prejudice and hate in all its forms; and

WHEREAS, training has been provided to nearly 6,000 youth, parents and others in the community to include anti-bullying, cultural competency and youth mental health first aid training to equip the community on ways to best support youth who are experiencing bullying; and

WHEREAS, our partners at the Holocaust Center and Zebra Coalition have trained more than 300 City of Orlando youth counselors on best practices in bullying prevention and ways to engage youth; and

WHEREAS, while we have made great strides in our community through Stand Up Orlando, there is more work to be done and we remain committed to ensuring Orlando continues to be a place of belonging, acceptance and respect for all people.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I Buddy Dyer, Mayor of the City of Orlando do hereby proclaim October as National Bullying Prevention Month and Wednesday, October 21 as Unity Day in the City of Orlando.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Orlando this 19th day of October, 2015.