

## RESOLUTION NO. 2023-

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**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, APPROVING CENSURE DIRECTED TOWARDS MAYOR SHLOMO DANZINGER; FINDING THAT MAYOR DANZINGER'S BEHAVIOR IS UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT HE MUST REFRAIN FROM SLURS OR COMMENTS DIRECTED AT COLLEAGUES AND/OR TOWN RESIDENTS WHICH SHAME, DEMEAN OR TARGET ONE BASED ON BEING A MEMBER OF A MINORITY GROUP; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Surfside ("Town") is a municipal corporation located within Miami-Dade County, Florida, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida and is charged with providing exceptional public services to residents located within its corporate limits; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Shlomo Danzinger was elected in March of 2022, to serve the citizens of the Town of Surfside; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Danzinger swore an oath, that among other things, he would perform the duties of the office of Mayor and serve in the best interests of the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the office and the aforementioned duties of a Surfside Mayor require that such person meet and maintain the highest standards of behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, mayor Danzinger took it upon himself to lash out in frustrative anger at a colleague, who happens to be a female and Hispanic, one born in America, who speaks English fluently. The demeaning question to those in the room regarding Commissioner Velasquez, "*does anybody know how to speak Spanish*" is a common slur often suffered by Spanish natives and nationals, meant to infer stupidity, inadequacy, or inferiority.

**WHEREAS**, members of the Surfside Town Commission have received complaints and the Town of Surfside has been subjected to embarrassing news coverage in local and national media regarding the recent unacceptable comments made by Mr. Danzinger; and

**WHEREAS**, The Miami Herald, our community's paper of record, not only reported on mayor Danzinger's comments directed towards one of his colleagues in a front-page article, they found it necessary to issue a completely separate editorial board opinion article to roundly denounce mayor Danzinger's "racist remark."

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Danzinger's behavior and comments have resulted in The Miami Herald's editorial board having to instruct Mr. Danzinger that "racist insults and sexist remarks reveal themselves in subtle ways," including "the slip of a tongue."

**WHEREAS**, the Town Commission wishes to declare and establish that the Town Commission does not, in any way, shape or form condone or accept Mayor Danzinger's aforementioned behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, the Surfside Town Commission also wishes to make it clear that Mr. Danzinger's aforementioned behavior must not, in any way, be something that the Town's residents or professional staff or the Town Commission, are forced to endure; and

**WHEREAS**, the Surfside Town Commission finds that this resolution is necessary and beneficial to its elected body, its citizens and staff given Mr. Danzinger's unacceptable behavior, which has been the subject of widespread news coverage. Moreover, because good government and respectful and professional behavior is a solemn duty of the Town's elected officials.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Recitals Adopted.** The above-stated recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

**Section 2. Approving Censure; Findings.** The Town Commission hereby approves formally censuring and reprimanding Mayor Danzinger for his unacceptable behavior. Mayor Danzinger is hereby called upon to cease the aforementioned behavior immediately and to conduct himself hereafter in a manner befitting a Town Mayor with respect towards the Vice Mayor, Commission, Town Staff, residents and the public.

**Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.

Motion By: \_\_\_\_\_

Second By: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION**

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Mayor Shlomo Danzinger          | _____ |
| Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rose         | _____ |
| Commissioner Nelly Velasquez    | _____ |
| Commissioner Marianne Miescheid | _____ |
| Commissioner Fred Landsman      | _____ |

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Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Sandra McCready, MMC,  
Town Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE ONLY:**

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Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.  
Town Attorney