



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Seminole are firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults.
- Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

WHEREAS, the Florida Afterschool Network and R'Club have provided significant leadership throughout the pandemic to keep kids engaged in learning and meet the needs of families in our community, especially those who need extra support to catch up and accelerate their learning.

WHEREAS, "*Lights On Afterschool*", the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 28, 2021, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities.

WHEREAS, approximately 1.5 million children and youth in Florida are waiting right now for a spot in an afterschool program, many of whom have no place to go after school.

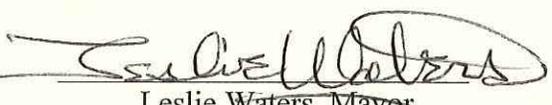
WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the state are facing funding and staffing shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights.

WHEREAS, the City of Seminole is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Leslie Waters, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Seminole, Florida and on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby recognize October 28, 2021, as "Lights On Afterschool Day" and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

"Lights on Afterschool"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Seminole, Florida to be affixed this 15th day of October 2021.


Leslie Waters, Mayor