

Exceptional Student Education

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Broward County, Florida**

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April 1, 2025

City of Pompano Beach Zoning Board of Appeals

City Hall

100 W. Atlantic Blvd.

Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

As the Transition Supervisor for the Broward County Public Schools Exceptional Student Education Department, I am writing in support of Rising Tide Car Wash and its mission to create meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with autism. Their efforts have had a profoundly positive impact on our students, and their potential growth into Pompano Beach represents not only an economic development opportunity but a powerful vehicle for social progress.

For many of our students with autism and other developmental differences, securing paid employment while still enrolled in school is a pivotal step toward a successful future. Research and experience have shown that students who gain real-world, paid work experience before graduation are significantly more likely to transition into long-term employment and independent adulthood. Rising Tide Car Wash plays a critical role in making this possible for our students.

Beyond offering jobs, Rising Tide provides comprehensive, structured training in essential employability skills—punctuality, teamwork, attention to detail, and communication—skills that many of our students may struggle to acquire without patient, supportive instruction in a real-world setting. The workplace culture at Rising Tide is built with neurodiverse individuals in mind, allowing our students to thrive in an environment that recognizes their strengths and accommodates their needs.

Equally important, Rising Tide serves as a real-life example to other employers in our community of what is possible when businesses embrace inclusive hiring practices. Our job coaches regularly point to Rising Tide as a model when building additional community-based employment partnerships. Their

leadership inspires other local companies to rethink traditional hiring models and opens new doors for students across Broward County.

In short, Rising Tide Car Wash is not just a business—it is an essential partner in our efforts to ensure every student, regardless of ability, has the chance to build a fulfilling and productive life. I respectfully ask that you consider the tremendous benefits Rising Tide provides to our students and community as you review their request for special exception.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and support of inclusive employment in our city.

Sincerely,

Stacy Wolfe

Transition Supervisor

Exceptional Student Education Department

Broward County Public Schools