

Frank J. Cobo, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 01-51 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND IS PERMANENTLY HEADQUARTERED IN MIAMI

The U.S. Southern Command (Southcom) has become an invaluable asset to the State of Florida, however, its remaining in Miami is at stake. Given the uncertain times in which we live, the strategic and permanent location of Southcom headquarters in Miami-Dade County is more important than ever, as Southcom is responsible for all United States military operations in the Southern Hemisphere. Equally important, Southcom's move to Miami more than four years ago has had a significant and positive impact on South Florida's economics, security and standard of living.

Miami-Dade County is uniquely situated geographically and serves as the gateway to the Caribbean and Latin America. It possesses the infrastructure, resources and culture necessary for Southcom's continued success.

It is imperative that Miami's leaders, including the Miami-Dade County School Board, ensure that Southcom remains permanently in our area. This can be accomplished by encouraging the federal government to fully fund the purchase or long-term lease of the headquarters and land in its fiscal year 2003 federal defense budget.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
FRANK J. COBO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 01-51 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, urging the Federal Government to ensure that the United States Southern Command is permanently situated in Miami.

FJC:jps

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-51
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES
SOUTHERN COMMAND IS PERMANENTLY HEADQUARTERED IN MIAMI**

WHEREAS, the United States Southern Command, responsible for all U.S. military operations in Latin America and the Caribbean, has had a positive impact on South Florida's standard of living, economics and security since it moved to Miami-Dade County four years ago; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County's proximity to the Southern Hemisphere, makes our community an ideal location for Southcom's headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has the necessary resources – including communication, education, transportation, technological and diplomatic infrastructures – to ensure Southcom's continued military success, and strengthen our community's and our nation's cultural relationships with the people of the Southern Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, any extension of the lease for Southcom's current headquarters requires Congressional approval, which is uncertain; and

WHEREAS, to satisfy security requirements, Florida has provided the federal government with a no-cost 50-year lease of land abutting the Southcom headquarters; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the long-term presence of Southcom in South Florida is a must to signal to the world our nation's strong commitment to its partner nations in the Southern Hemisphere;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 01-51 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida urging the federal government to ensure that the United States Southern Command is permanently headquartered in Miami.

Presented this twelfth day of December, A.D. 2001

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary