

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-31 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT PROCLAIMS MAY 2003 AS CIVILITY MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND FOSTERS CIVILITY AMONG EACH OTHER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

**COMMITTEE: BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

If there is a single quality with which we all should be concerned, it is civility. Although a School Board cannot solve all of the problems of the world, its members can treat each other with civility and encourage its employees and students to do the same. Problems are rarely simple and solutions to them can be more perplexing than the problems they are aimed at rectifying. However, as members of the Board, we share a common denominator — the determination to ensure our students are provided with an opportunity for a quality education. Civility is key to accomplishing this.

Therefore, it is appropriate that the Board approve a resolution proposed by the City, County and Local Government Law Section of The Florida Bar which proclaims May as Civility Month and calls upon all community members to exercise civility toward each other throughout the year.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTA PEREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 03-31 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida that proclaims May 2003 as Civility Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and fosters civility among each other throughout the year.

MP:jlh

RESOLUTION NO. 03-31  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT  
PROCLAIMS MAY 2003 AS CIVILITY MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS AND THAT FOSTERS CIVILITY AMONG EACH OTHER  
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

**WHEREAS**, the open exchange of public discourse is essential to the democratic system of government; and

**WHEREAS**, as a cornerstone of democracy, Americans have observed certain rules of behavior generally known as civility; and

**WHEREAS**, civility, derived from the Latin words "civics" meaning city and "civitas" meaning citizen, is behavior worthy of citizens living in a community or in common with others; and

**WHEREAS**, displays of anger, rudeness, ridicule, impatience, lack of respect and personal attacks detract from the open exchange of ideas, prevent fair discussion of the issues and can discourage individuals from participation in government; and

**WHEREAS**, civility can assist in reaching consensus on diverse issues and allow for mutually respectful ongoing relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, civility can uplift our daily life and make it more pleasant to live in an organized society; and

**WHEREAS**, the City, County and Local Government Law Section of the Florida Bar urges the adoption of a pledge of civility by all citizens in the State of Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 03-31 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, that proclaims May 2003 as Civility Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and fosters civility among each other throughout the year.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this fourteenth day of May, A. D. 2003

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary