

February 6, 2004

Frank J. Cobo, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 04-17 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
MARKING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRCHILD
TROPICAL GARDEN'S FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

For decades, Fairchild Tropical Garden has provided educational programs for thousands of people, from preschoolers to centenarians. These learning opportunities include the Fairchild Explorer Program for kindergarten through fifth-grade students, the Plant Mobile program for elementary and middle school students, the Green Treasures: Professional Development program for middle school science teachers and many other programs, as well. Now, the first year of the Fairchild Challenge, a competitive, multicultural, environmental education program for teenagers, is being celebrated.

This program is designed to foster an interest in the environment by encouraging middle and high school students to appreciate the beauty and value of nature, to develop critical thinking skills with respect to environmental issues and to understand the need for conservation and biodiversity. Through this special program, students also are encouraged to tap the resources of Fairchild Tropical Garden and other institutions for environmental studies, to become active in their communities and to recognize that individuals do, indeed, make a difference.

With this as its focus, it is appropriate that the School Board recognize the Fairchild Challenge with a proclamation.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 04-17 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, marking the first anniversary of Fairchild Tropical Garden's Fairchild Challenge.

FJC:jlm

REPLACEMENT
D-14

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-17
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
MARKING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRCHILD TROPICAL GARDEN'S
FAIRCHILD CHALLENGE**

WHEREAS, for decades, Fairchild Tropical Garden has offered educational programs to people from around the world, pre-schoolers to centenarians; and

WHEREAS, Fairchild Tropical Garden is currently marking the first anniversary of the Fairchild Challenge, a program for teenagers that creates interdisciplinary learning opportunities, empowers students and broadens their concern for biodiversity, as well as our complex natural environment; and

WHEREAS, designed to foster everything from environmental interest to critical thinking skills to understanding the need for conservation, the Challenge fosters collaboration with more than twenty important environmental education centers in South Florida to provide practical learning opportunities for students; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this collaboration, hundreds of students are currently at work on various Challenge options, including science, environmental research and ethnobotany; and

WHEREAS, the program reaches out to students of all abilities and backgrounds by creating theme gardens at schools for students who may not always perform well in traditional classroom settings, subsidizing costs for schools-in-need to visit Fairchild Tropical Garden for field studies and providing prizes and awards for environmental education activities; and

WHEREAS, through the program, high school students are encouraged to continue their education after graduating from secondary school, to become active in their communities and to recognize that as individuals, they can, indeed make a difference;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 04-17 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, marking the first anniversary of Fairchild Tropical Garden's Fairchild Challenge.

Presented this eleventh day of February, A.D. 2004

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary