

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 04-59
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, HONORING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALUMNUS NILO CRUZ ON THE
MIAMI REVIVAL OF HIS PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING
PLAY, ANNA IN THE TROPICS**

COMMITTEE: BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Former Miami Senior High School student Nilo Cruz is an accomplished playwright who was the first Latino ever to win a Pulitzer Prize for drama. His award-winning play *Anna in the Tropics* is currently running at the Coconut Grove Playhouse in Coconut Grove. Born in Matanzas, Cuba in 1961, Mr. Cruz immigrated to Miami-Dade County's Little Havana area in 1970. He began his work in the theatre as an actor and director in the early 1980s. He earned a master's degree in fine arts from Brown University in 1994, and he taught drama there, as well as at Yale. In 2001, he served as the playwright-in-residence for the New Theatre in Coral Gables. He currently resides in New York.

Anna in the Tropics, which was commissioned by the New Theatre in Coral Gables, opened in 2002. It won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 2003.

Additionally, Mr. Cruz has won awards and accolades that range from the W. Alton Jones Award for *Night Train to Bolina* to the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award for *Two Sisters and a Piano* to the American Theatre Critics/Steinberg New Play Award for *Anna in the Tropics*. Additionally, he has won grants from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Theatre Communications Group.

As director of the Coconut Grove Playhouse's production of *Anna in the Tropics*, he is drawing rave reviews from critics. We at Miami-Dade County Public Schools are justly proud of our former student and his outstanding accomplishments. It is fitting, therefore, that this School Board honor Nilo Cruz with a proclamation in his honor.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 04-59 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Miami-Dade County Public Schools alumnus Nilo Cruz on the Miami revival of his Pulitzer Prize-Winning play, *Anna in the Tropics*.

MP/jlm

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-59
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALUMNUS NILO
CRUZ ON THE MIAMI REVIVAL OF HIS PULITZER
PRIZE-WINNING PLAY, ANNA IN THE TROPICS**

WHEREAS, nationally acclaimed playwright and director Nilo Cruz is an alumnus of Miami Senior High School; and

WHEREAS, a native of Cuba and now citizen of the United States, he is the first Latino to write a play honored with the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for drama; and

WHEREAS, he has earned awards for several of his plays: the W. Alton Jones Award for *Night Train to Bolina*, the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays Award for *Two Sisters and a Piano* and the American Theatre Critics/Steinbert New Play Award for *Anna in the Tropics*; and

WHEREAS, his Pulitzer Prize-winning *Anna in the Tropics* is currently running at the Coconut Grove Theatre in Coral Gables and is getting rave reviews; and

WHEREAS, Cruz, who adeptly directs the play himself, has cast his early mentor, Teresa Maria Rojas, founder and director of the Prometeo Theater Group at Miami-Dade College, in the play; and

WHEREAS, the risks he has taken with *Anna in the Tropics*, his most successful play, have paid off beyond all expectations; and

WHEREAS, Nilo Cruz stands as a role model for all of our students who have an interest in drama and in excellence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 04-59 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Miami-Dade County Public Schools alumnus Nilo Cruz on the Miami revival of his Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Anna in the Tropics*.

Presented this twentieth day of October, A.D. 2004

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary