

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 05-02 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING FEBRUARY 2005 AS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALL OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The first national observance of Black history was a week-long observance initiated in February 1926 by noted Black scholar and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson. It was expanded to a month-long observance in 1976. Each year a theme for the observance is selected by The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, an organization founded by Dr. Woodson. This year's national theme is The Niagara Movement: Black Protest Reborn, 1905–2005. The theme adopted by Miami–Dade Public Schools is **Exploring the Niagara Movement**.

The purpose of Black History Month is to call attention to the many cultural, social, spiritual and economic contributions of African Americans to the United States. However, in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, African American history is not just a subject studied and discussed in February. It is a topic of substance that is woven into all subjects throughout the school year. Therefore, given the importance of instruction on African American history in our curriculum, and the importance of the impact of the Niagara Movement in advancing the ideas of equal social, political, and economic rights for Blacks at the beginning of the 20th century, it is appropriate that this School Board endorse National Black History Month and encourage its celebration in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 05-02 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing February 2005 as National Black History Month to be celebrated in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.

**RESOLUTION NO. 05-02
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING
FEBRUARY 2005 AS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALL
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the official, national, week-long celebration of African American history initiated in February 1926 by noted Black scholar and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson has expanded to a month-long observance during February; and

WHEREAS, this annual designation prompts our diverse community to become aware of, recognize, and celebrate the many cultural, social, spiritual, and economic contributions of African Americans to the United States as well as to promote understanding and harmony among all people; and

WHEREAS, the study of African American history is required by Miami-Dade County Public Schools' policy as well a state legislation and is woven into subjects throughout the school year; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the 2005 celebration of African American history month commemorates the impact of the Niagara Movement on the social, political, and economic rights of Blacks in the United States, and was the precursor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which has been the most significant civil rights organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these policies, Miami-Dade County Public Schools provides its diverse student body with both programs and services that emphasize ethnic pride, cultural sensitivity, positive intergroup relations, and cross-cultural communications as well as the contributions of African Americans to the United States

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approves Resolution No. 05-02 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing February as National Black History Month to be celebrated in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.

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

Presented this sixteenth day of February, A.D. 2005

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

Attest:

Secretary