

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-04 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSING FEBRUARY 2007 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 "From Slavery to Freedom, Africans in the Americas."

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, Black history is not just a subject studied and discussed in February. Section 1003.42(g), Fla. Stat., requires that each school district include the history of African people in its curriculum and teach "...the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of African Americans to society." Therefore, this topic is woven into all subjects throughout the school year. Given the importance of instruction on African American history in our curriculum, and the important role and contributions of Blacks in this country, it is appropriate, therefore, that the School Board endorse National Black History Month and encourage its celebration in all of Miami-Dade County's public schools.

This item does not appear in the regularly scheduled agenda. There is good cause to vary from the established agenda since Black History month begins February 1, 2007 which is prior to the next scheduled board meeting.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 07-04 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing February 2007 as National Black History Month to be celebrated in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and authorizing administrative actions to foster related activities.

**GOOD CAUSE
B-17**

**RESOLUTION NO. 07-04
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ENDORING FEBRUARY 2007 AS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO BE
CELEBRATED IN ALL 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 as state legislation specified in Section 1003.42(g), Fla. Stat., and is woven into subjects throughout the school years; 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; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the 2007 celebration of African American History Month commemorates the important role and contributions of Blacks in this country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approves Resolution No. 07-04 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing February 2007 as National Black History Month to be celebrated in all Miami-Dade County's public schools.

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

Presented this seventeenth day of January, A.D. 2007

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY