

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 08-19 RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY LEGACY AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARYLOU FITZGIBBONS FERNANDEZ

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE STUDENT EXPOSURE AND UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL ISSUES AND ECONOMY

Marylou Fitzgibbons Fernandez, a longtime Miami-Dade County Public Schools teacher and mother of Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, passed away in December at the age of 79. Mrs. Fernandez was born on April 22, 1928 in Chicago, Illinois. She moved to Miami to study at the University of Miami, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business education and a master's of education. Mrs. Fernandez taught learning-disabled elementary school children. Among the schools she taught are Redland, Frederick Douglass, and Caribbean elementary schools. In addition, she taught at Perrine Elementary School for ten years. In 1983, Mrs. Fernandez retired from the school system after more than 15 years of service.

In 1949, Mrs. Fernandez married Dr. Carlos Benito Fernandez, the first Cuban judge in Miami-Dade County. The Fernandez home became a meeting place for both Cuban activists and future public servants.

Mrs. Fernandez was very active in the community. She served as president of the Miami Women's Club, the National Association of Parliamentarians, and the Jacyees Women's Auxiliary. She belonged to Delta Kappa Gamma International Sorority, a service organization for women educators, and was a founding member of St. Louis Catholic Church. Daughter Katherine Fernandez Rundle has said of her mother: "My mother taught all of her children the fundamental importance of being involved in your community. She deeply believed in giving back to others."

Among Mrs. Fernandez's proudest accomplishments are raising her children, Katherine, Helenita, Steven, and Fitz Fernandez and being a grandmother to Evan Carlos and Justin Rundle, Carla, Pearla, and Krystal Fernandez, and Julia and Robert Bacher.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 08-19 recognizing the community legacy and contributions of Marylou Fitzgibbons Fernandez.

**RESOLUTION NO. 08-19 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY LEGACY AND
CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARYLOU FITZGIBBONS FERNANDEZ**

WHEREAS, Marylou Fitzgibbons Fernandez, mother of Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, was a longtime Miami-Dade County Public Schools teacher; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fernandez, a former teacher at Redland, Frederick Douglass, Caribbean, and Perrine elementary schools, retired from the school system after more than 15 years of teaching learning-disabled children; and

WHEREAS, the home of Mrs. Fernandez and her husband, Dr. Carlos Benito Fernandez, the first Cuban judge in Miami-Dade County, became a meeting place for both Cuban activists and future public servants; and

WHEREAS, an advocate of community activism, Mrs. Fernandez served as president of the Miami Women's Club, the National Association of Parliamentarians, and the Jacyees Women's Auxiliary; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fernandez also belonged to Delta Kappa Gamma International Sorority, a service organization for women educators, and was a founding member of St. Louis Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, raising her four children and being grandmother to her seven grandchildren are among Mrs. Fernandez's greatest accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fernandez's commitment to education and enthusiasm for civic and community involvement serve as a lasting memorial of her legacy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 08-19, recognizing the community legacy and contributions of Marylou Fitzgibbons Fernandez.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of February, A.D. 2008

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY