

Ms. Ana Rivas Logan, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-109 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 15 AS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Each year, Americans across the nation observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15 as a way of recognizing the many contributions of Hispanic Americans to our history. During the month-long observance, Americans celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

The observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week and was later expanded in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988. The date of September 15 was chosen as the starting date for the observance because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The countries of Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18.

There are an estimated 46 million people of Hispanic origin in the United States, making Hispanics the nation's largest ethnic or race minority. Hispanics constitute 15 percent of the nation's total population. On April 18, 2009, the membership of the National Council of Hispanic Employment Managers voted on the top five themes for Hispanic Heritage Month selected during the national theme voting period from March 19 to April 3. The winning theme, "*Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now!*," was submitted by Jorge Ponce, Director of the Policy and Evaluation Division at the Office of Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Commerce. This year's theme is meant as a call to action to seize the moment now and to work to bring equity to Hispanics in the federal sector.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. ANA RIVAS LOGAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-109 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, designating September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-109
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 15 AS HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, each year, Americans across the nation observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15 as a way of recognizing the many contributions of Hispanic Americans to our history; and

WHEREAS, during the month-long observance, Americans celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America; and

WHEREAS, the observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week and was later expanded in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 46 million people of Hispanic origin in the United States, making Hispanics the nation's largest ethnic or race minority; and

WHEREAS, this year's National Hispanic Heritage Month theme is "*Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now!*";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-109 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, designating September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

Presented this ninth day of September, A.D. 2009

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary