

Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 11-055 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING CHIEF JUDGE FEDERICO MORENO AND JUDGE MARCIA COOKE FOR SPEARHEADING THE COMMITTEE FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The month of February has been officially designated Black History Month by every U.S. president since 1976. Black History Month celebrates the many contributions that black Americans have made to this country. This past February marked the first time the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida recognized Black History Month with a special event.

U.S. District Judge Marcia Cooke, under the direction of U.S. District Chief Judge Federico Moreno, chaired the Black History Month committee, which included School Board Attorney Walter Harvey and Assistant School Board Attorney Teddra Joy Gadson. The goal was to showcase black legal history from around South Florida.

The event included an unveiling ceremony for the exhibit, "Milestones: A Legal Odyssey," which recognized the black legal firsts from South Florida and the entire state. The "Expanding the Scales of Justice" Essay and Oratorical Contest allowed Miami-Dade's public school students from various law magnet schools to participate. The Legal Legends/Trailblazers Luncheon titled "Reaching Beyond the Gavel: Expanding the Scales of Justice" paired the winners of the essay and oratorical contest with local legal legends for a mentoring opportunity. The event culminated with the "Eye on the Prize: The Legal Journey of Civil Rights in South Florida Symposium and Reception," which was moderated by Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree.

U.S. District Judges Federico Moreno and Marcia Cooke are to be commended for their commitment and dedication to the students and families of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Their pursuit of justice and equality enriches the lives of everyone in our community.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-055 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Chief Judge Federico Moreno and Judge Marcia Cooke for spearheading the Committee for Black History Month.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-055  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING CHIEF JUDGE FEDERICO MORENO AND JUDGE MARCIA COOKE  
FOR SPEARHEADING THE COMMITTEE FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the month of February has been officially designated Black History Month by every U.S. president since 1976 and it celebrates the many contributions that black Americans have made to this country; and

**WHEREAS**, this past February marked the first time the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida recognized Black History Month with a special event; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. District Judge Marcia Cooke, under the direction of U.S. District Chief Judge Federico Moreno, chaired the Black History Month committee, which included School Board Attorney Walter Harvey and Assistant School Board Attorney Teddra Joy Gadson; and

**WHEREAS**, the event included an unveiling ceremony for the exhibit, "Milestones: A Legal Odyssey," which recognized the black legal firsts from South Florida and the entire state. "The Expanding the Scales of Justice" Essay and Oratorical Contest allowed Miami-Dade's public school students from various law magnet schools to participate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legal Legends/Tailblazers Luncheon titled "Reaching Beyond the Gavel: Expanding the Scales of Justice" paired the winners of the essay and oratorical contest with local legal legends for a mentoring opportunity. The event culminated with the "Eye on the Prize: The Legal Journey of Civil Rights in South Florida Symposium and Reception," which was moderated by Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. District Judges Federico Moreno and Marcia Cooke are to be commended for their commitment and dedication to the students and families of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Their pursuit of justice and equality enriches the lives of those they serve;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-055 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Chief Judge Federico Moreno and Judge Marcia Cooke for spearheading the Committee for Black History Month.

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

**Presented this eleventh day of May, A.D. 2011**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary