Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of December 14, 2011

December 8, 2011

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: **REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 11-135 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING ROGER ABRAMSON**

COMMITTEE: **INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: **EDUCATION**

Roger Abramson is a pioneer in the Civil Rights Movement. He marched with Civil Rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and work with dynamic politicians such as Robert Kennedy, Julian Bond and Andrew Young. Mr. Abramson, raised in Ohio in an upper-middle class household, began his Civil Rights work in high school when he created a music trio with two of his black classmates. It was this experience that gave him a first-hand glimpse at racism and hatred.

Mr. Abramson continued his crusade for equal rights when he joined a movement in Cincinnati to fight against racist policies at a local swimming pool. He later became the chairman of the Southern Ohio chapter of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). As chair of SNCC, he was charged with leading voter registration drives, sit-ins and freedom rides. He also organized concerts to promote cultural awareness.

An advocate for equality in education, Mr. Abramson led a boycott of Cincinnati public schools citing the disparities in black and white schools. Mr. Abramson was most recently feted for his immense contributions to the Civil Rights movement by being inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

Mr. Abramson has appeared in classrooms to share personal stories about rock music legends such as Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin. As a member of the Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council he was appointed to represent the council on matters regarding schools in Miami Beach. His grandchildren have attended South Pointe Elementary, Nautilus Middle , Miami Beach Senior High, Design and Architecture Senior High, and presently one is attending North Beach Elementary.

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In 2001, Mr. Abramson created a Chanukah Menorah made out of 15,000 sea shells that he personally collected. The following year, he created the world's largest spinning Dreidel weighing over 2,000 pounds, standing 14 feet tall, and constructed from 20,000 sea shells.

Roger Abramson is to be commended for his significant contributions to the local community and to the Civil Rights Movement in this country. He is a shining example of community service, activism, and compassion at its highest level.

ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. MARTIN KARP:

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-135 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Roger Abramson.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-135
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING ROGER ABRAMSON

WHEREAS, Roger Abramson is a pioneer in the Civil Rights Movement. He marched with Civil Rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and work with dynamic politicians such as Robert Kennedy, Julian Bond and Andrew Young; and

WHEREAS, his early civil rights work started in high school when he created a music trio with two of his black classmates and continued when he joined a movement in Cincinnati to fight against racist policies at a local swimming pool; and

WHEREAS, he later became the chairman of the Southern Ohio chapter of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee where he was charged with leading voter registration drives, sit-ins and freedom rides. He also organized concerts to promote cultural awareness; and

WHEREAS, an advocate for equality in education, Mr. Abramson led a boycott of Cincinnati public schools citing the disparities in black and white schools; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abramson was most recently feted for his immense contributions to the civil rights movement by being inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abramson has appeared in classrooms to share personal stories about rock music legends such as Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin. As a member of the Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council he was appointed to represent the council on matters regarding schools in Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Mr. Abramson created a Chanukah Menorah made out of 15,000 sea shells that he personally collected. The following year, he created the world's largest spinning Dreidel weighing over 2,000 pounds, standing 14 feet tall, and constructed from 20,000 sea shells; and

WHEREAS, Roger Abramson is to be commended for his significant contributions to the local community and to the Civil Rights Movement in this country. He is a shining example of community service, activism, and compassion at its highest level;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-135 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Roger Abramson.

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

Presented this fourteenth day of December A.D. 2011

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary