

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-037 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING TOOLS FOR CHANGE GRADUATES CRYSTAL CORNER AND LAKENYA SPENCER FOR THEIR POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL, EXCELLENCE, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

"Tools for Change" is a small business pilot program that is funded by Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development Agency. The program was designed to encourage low-income individuals to become involved in the community revitalization process. More importantly, it provides technical and financial assistance to residents of the Liberty Square Public Housing (LSPH) development who are interested in becoming business owners with the help of Neighbors and Neighbors Association (NANA) a not-for profit organization founded to assist the growth of "Mom and Pop" businesses in Miami-Dade County, headed by Leroy Jones. After students participate in a series of workshops built around business and computer skills, they are awarded a grant of 25 to 50 thousand dollars to open a small business.

On December 21, 2011, LSPH residents Crystal Corner and Lakenya Spencer were recognized as the latest Tool for Change graduates. The graduates punctuated their graduation by receiving grants to open up their own Estrella Insurance franchises effectively becoming the first public housing residents to own a business. The event caught the attention of Jose E. Mirelle, President of Estrella Insurance. There President Mirelle commended the efforts of Tools for Change and Neighbors for Neighbors, especially the work of Ms. Corner and Ms. Spencer.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Tools for Change graduates Crystal Corner and Lakenya Spencer for their perseverance and determination and NANA executive director Leroy Jones for his commitment to improving the community.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-037 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Tools for Change graduates Crystal Corner and Lakenya Spencer for their positive contributions to our community.

**Replacement
H-18**

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-037
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING TOOLS FOR CHANGE GRADUATES CRYSTAL CORNER AND
LAKENYA SPENCER FOR THEIR POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, the not-for-profit organization Neighbors and Neighbors Association (NANA) was founded in 1995 to provide technical assistance to small "mom and pop" businesses in Miami-Dade County. Leroy Jones serves as executive director of the organization; and

WHEREAS, Tools for Change is a small business pilot program that is funded by Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development Agency. The program was designed to encourage low-income individuals to become involved in the community revitalization process; and

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2011 two women from Liberty Square Public Housing, Crystal Corner and Lakenya Spencer were recognized as the latest franchise owners of Estrella Insurance; and

WHEREAS, graduates of the Tools for Change program, Ms. Corner and Ms. Spencer are the first public housing residents to own a business; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Tools for Change graduates Crystal Corner and Lakenya Spencer for their perseverance and determination and NANA executive director Leroy Jones for his commitment to improving the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-037 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Tools for Change graduates Crystal Corner and Lakenya Spencer for their positive contributions to our community.

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

Presented this fifteenth day of February A.D. 2012

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary