

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 12-127 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE LITTLE HAITI OPTIMIST CLUB FOR EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

The Little Haiti Optimist Club (LHOC) is a non-profit organization established by a group of business and community leaders in 2010 in the Little Haiti neighborhood of Miami-Dade County. The organization's mission is to provide the youth of Little Haiti and its surrounding neighborhoods athletic, educational, and character building programs that positively impact the community as a whole.

In only two years, LHOC has been able to provide an extensive athletic program including soccer, basketball, wrestling, track and field, tennis, football, and cheerleading for thousands of children who have benefited from LHOC's widespread community support. The LHOC also provides educational programs such as its Fashion 101 program, which teaches Little Haiti youth fashion industry basics and then allows them to showcase what they learned in an actual fashion show. The Bright and Smart Robotics program exposes the youth to computer programming and robotics while enhancing their critical-thinking skills and introducing them to team work.

The LHOC has also taken up charitable causes in their charge to positively impact Little Haiti. The LHOC has established the Michael "Doo" Wright Scholarship Fund, which awards five graduating seniors college scholarships. They also hold a "back to school" giveaway, which has become an annual celebration that includes food and entertainment for the Little Haiti area. During the holiday season, they can be seen around Little Haiti distributing Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas presents. As a testament to their coalition building in our community, the LHOC has been able to start the Elite Achievers of Little Haiti mentoring program along with the men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. They have also started the Little Haiti: Keeping it Clean & Green Initiative where over a hundred volunteers participate in neighborhood cleanups and house beautification in Little Haiti.

The LHOC helps our youth develop their full individual potential; relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect; develop values to guide their actions and provide the foundation for sound decision making; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others. The School Board commends the Little Haiti Optimist Club for their exemplary community service in our community.

This item does not appear on the published Agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published Agenda as the details of this item had not been finalized prior to publication of the Agenda.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY-BENDROSS MINDINGALL:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-127 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Little Haiti Optimist Club for exemplary community service.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-127
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE LITTLE HAITI OPTIMIST CLUB FOR
EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE**

WHEREAS, the Little Haiti Optimist Club (LHOC) is a non-profit organization established by a group of business and community leaders in 2010 in the Little Haiti neighborhood of Miami-Dade County. The organization's mission is to provide the youth of Little Haiti and its surrounding neighborhoods athletic, educational, and character building programs that positively impact the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, in only two years, LHOC has been able to provide an extensive athletic program including soccer, basketball, wrestling, track and field, tennis, football, and cheerleading for thousands of children who have benefited from LHOC's widespread community support; and

WHEREAS, the LHOC also provides educational programs such as its Fashion 101 program, which teaches Little Haiti youth fashion industry basics and then allows them to showcase what they learned in an actual fashion show. The Bright and Smart Robotics program exposes the youth to computer programming and robotics while enhancing their critical-thinking skills and introducing them to team work; and

WHEREAS, the LHOC has also taken up charitable causes in their charge to positively impact Little Haiti. The LHOC has established the Michael "Doo" Wright Scholarship Fund, which awards five graduating seniors college scholarships. They also hold a "back to school" giveaway, which has become an annual celebration that includes food and entertainment for the Little Haiti area. During the holiday season, they can be seen around Little Haiti distributing Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas presents; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to their coalition building in our community, the LHOC has been able to start the Elite Achievers of Little Haiti mentoring program along with the men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. They have also started the Little Haiti: Keeping it Clean & Green Initiative where over a hundred volunteers participate in neighborhood cleanups and house beautification in Little Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the School Board commends the Little Haiti Optimist Club for their exemplary community service in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-127 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Little Haiti Optimist Club for exemplary community service.

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

Presented this first day of August, A.D. 2012

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary