

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 13-065 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING DESILINE VICTOR**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

On November 11, 2012, Desiline Victor became a national symbol of perseverance and democracy. The then 101-year-old was waiting in line to vote for the presidential election when it became evident that the process would take hours. She was undeterred by the line and said, "I'm not leaving until I do my part in making Obama president again." Despite the extreme heat and long line, she endured to cast her vote for the presidency.

On February 12, 2013, Ms. Victor was invited by President Barack Obama and the First Lady to attend the State of the Union Address where she was recognized for her tenacity and courage. She received a standing ovation from the audience. Her act of determination captured the heart of the country and made her a heroine.

The roots of Ms. Victor's strength and determination date back to her home country of Haiti. She was born in Gonaives in the Pasrene village on December 15, 1910. After relocating to Port-au-Prince, she opened a popular restaurant where she earned the nickname "*Marin*", which means Godmother in Creole. During this time she became the sole guardian of an orphan boy and her nephew, both whom she raised as her own. After several attempts to enter the United States, she was finally successful and eventually was able to bring her nephew and adopted son. Ms. Victor became an American citizen in 2005 and has voted in every presidential election since that time.

Desiline Victor's life is testament to her faith, compassion and perseverance. Her quest for liberty and democracy serve as a valuable lesson for future generations to come.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-065 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Desiline Victor.

**Replacement
H-21**

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-065
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING DESILINE VICTOR**

WHEREAS, on November 11, 2012, Desiline Victor became a national symbol of perseverance and democracy. The 101-year-old was waiting in line to vote for the presidential election when it became evident that the process would take hours; and

WHEREAS, she was undeterred by the line and said, "I'm not leaving until I do my part in making Obama president again." Despite the extreme heat and long line, she endured to cast her vote for the presidency; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2013, Ms. Victor was invited by President Barack Obama and the First Lady to attend the State of the Union Address where she was recognized for her tenacity and courage. She received a standing ovation from the audience. Her act of determination captured the heart of the country and made her a heroine; and

WHEREAS, the roots of Ms. Victor's strength and determination date back to her home country of Haiti. She was born in Gonaives in the Pasrene village on December 15, 1910. After several attempts to enter the United States, she was finally successful and eventually was able to bring her nephew and adopted son whom she raised solely as her own. Ms. Victor became an American citizen in 2005 and has voted in every presidential election since that time; and

WHEREAS, Desiline Victor's life is testament to her faith, compassion and perseverance. Her quest for liberty and democracy serve as a valuable lesson for future generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-065 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Desiline Victor.

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

Presented this seventeenth day of April, A.D. 2013

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary