

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-124 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING T. WILLARD FAIR FOR HIS POWERFUL VOICE IN THE EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

T. Willard Fair has a rich reputation in the South Florida community and across the country as a tireless advocate and public servant. Under his leadership, the Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc. has provided outstanding services in our community including education, economic development, community service, employment, childcare, housing, training and senior citizen care. Mr. Fair became chapter president of the Urban League of Greater Miami at the tender age of 24, but was able to grow the organization from a \$19,000 annual budget and three employees to a multi-million dollar budget and 476 employees providing several resources to the community.

The Urban League's mission of achieving economic self-reliance, parity, power, and civil rights was well suited for Mr. Fair's plans for the chapter, as he aggressively pushed for the integration of Miami businesses. Mr. Fair successfully negotiated the hiring of black employees at Eastern Airlines, AT&T, Florida Power & Light, Macy's, and several other companies and governmental agencies while threats were made on his life.

Mr. Fair is also a strong supporter of education. He was appointed by former Gov. Jeb Bush and re-appointed by Gov. Charlie Christ to the Florida State Board of Education where he rose to chairperson. Together with Governor Bush the two instituted the State's first charter school. He was also instrumental in getting a provision that allows student to substitute FCAT scores with an appropriate assessment.

Mr. Fair has the distinct honor of meeting four presidents of the United States to discuss African American affairs. He was appointed and reappointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Commission on White House Fellowships-Miami Regional Selection Panel. He was appointed to the United States Advisory Committee on Cultural Affairs by former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

T. Willard Fair is to be commended for his steadfast commitment to education, equality and public service. His indomitable spirit has enriched the lives of those in the community and throughout the nation.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-124, of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing T. Willard Fair for his powerful voice in the effort to improve the community.

**Replacement
H-7**

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-124
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING T. WILLARD FAIR FOR HIS POWERFUL VOICE IN THE
EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, T. Willard Fair has a rich reputation in the South Florida community and across the country as a tireless advocate and public servant. Under his leadership, the Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc. has provided outstanding services in our community including education, economic development, community service, employment, childcare, housing, training and senior citizen care; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fair became chapter president of the Urban League of Greater Miami at the tender age of 24, but was able to grow the organization from a \$19,000 annual budget and three employees to a multi-million dollar budget and 476 employees providing several resources to the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fair successfully negotiated the hiring of black employees at Eastern Airlines, AT&T, Florida Power & Light, Macy's, and several other companies and governmental agencies while threats were made on his life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fair is also a strong supporter of education. He was appointed by former Gov. Jeb Bush and re-appointed by Gov. Charlie Christ to the Florida State Board of Education where he rose to chairperson. Together with Governor Bush the two instituted the State's first charter school. He was also instrumental in getting a provision that allows student to substitute FCAT scores with an appropriate assessment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fair has the distinct honor of meeting four presidents of the United States to discuss African American affairs. He was appointed and reappointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Commission on White House Fellowships-Miami Regional Selection Panel. He was appointed to the United States Advisory Committee on Cultural Affairs by former Secretary of State Colin Powell; and

WHEREAS, T. Willard Fair is to be commended for his steadfast commitment to education, equality and public service. His indomitable spirit has enriched the lives of those in the community and throughout the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-124 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing T. Willard Fair for his powerful voice in the effort to improve the community.

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

Presented this nineteenth day of November, A.D. 2013

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary