

Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE 1964 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION**

This year, 2014, marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the nation's benchmark civil rights legislation that continues to resonate in America. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

According to its preamble, the 1964 Civil Rights Act was enacted, among other things, "to enforce the constitutional right to vote, to confer jurisdiction upon the district courts of the United States to provide injunctive relief against discrimination in public accommodations, to authorize the Attorney General to institute suits to protect constitutional rights in public facilities and public education, to extend the Commission on Civil Rights, to prevent discrimination in federally assisted programs, [and] to establish a Commission on Equal Employment Opportunity."

Passage of the Act ended the application of "Jim Crow" laws, which had been upheld by the Supreme Court in an 1896 case, in which the Court held that racial segregation purported to be "separate but equal" was constitutional. The Civil Rights Act was eventually expanded by Congress to strengthen enforcement of these fundamental civil rights.

On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into effect. The law became the most sweeping civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. The law also provides the federal government with the powers to enforce desegregation. Congress passes the Voting Rights Act of 1965, making it easier for Southern blacks to register to vote. Literacy tests, poll taxes, and other such requirements that were used to restrict black voting are made illegal.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognize the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**Replacement
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