

Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-012 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING ROXCY O'NEAL BOLTON AS A CIVIC LEADER, VICTIMS' ADVOCATE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS PIONEER**

**COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY**

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

Roxcy O'Neal Bolton is renowned as a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Women's Rights Pioneer, Florida's Pioneer Feminist and Founding Mother of the Florida's National Organization for Women (NOW). Throughout her life, Bolton has worked tirelessly to support civic causes, promote victims' awareness, and advance the rights of women. In 1968, Bolton founded the Miami Chapter of NOW and was elected as a National Vice President in 1969. An activist in the 1970s, she lobbied for approval of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and the designation of Women's Equality Day. Concurrently, as an avid community advocate, she led a march along Flagler Street in 1971 and promoted awareness of victim's rights. Consequently, Florida's first women's rescue shelter, Women in Distress, and the nation's first hospital-based Rape Treatment Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital (renamed the Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center in 1993) were founded in 1972 and 1974, respectively. Further, she organized the first Florida Crime Watch meeting addressing crimes against women. Bolton is credited with persuading the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to include men and women in naming hurricanes. Having received numerous awards and notable recognition, she is often featured in historic literature, exhibits, and media presentations and was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame in 1984. The Women's Park dedicated in 1992 in Dade County houses the Roxcy O'Neal Bolton Women History Gallery (built, 2000). A distinguished resident of Coral Gables, her home was dedicated as a Florida Heritage Site in 1999.

In accordance with the 1998 Florida legislative amendment requiring instruction of women's history, students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools are encouraged to research Bolton and her historic impact in South Florida. Her life, service, and tenacity provide an inspirational legacy. In March, the National Women's History Project (NWHF) will celebrate Roxcy O'Neal Bolton in Washington D.C. as one of the 2014 National Women's History Month Honorees. The significant work of these honorees will be recognized this year, 2014, under the national theme "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment." The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida congratulates Roxcy O'Neal Bolton for selection as an honoree and commends her noteworthy accomplishments and service on behalf of women nationally, statewide, and especially in Miami-Dade County.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 14-012 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Roxcy O'Neal Bolton as a civic leader, victims' advocate and women's rights pioneer.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-012  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
RECOGNIZING ROXCY O'NEAL BOLTON AS A CIVIC LEADER, VICTIM'S ADVOCATE  
AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS PIONEER**

**WHEREAS**, Roxcy O'Neal Bolton is recognized as a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Women's Rights Pioneer, Florida Pioneer Feminist and Mother of the Florida National Organization of Women (NOW); and

**WHEREAS**, in 1968, Mrs. Roxcy O'Neal Bolton founded and served as charter president of the Miami Chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW) and was elected as a National Vice President in 1969; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1970s, Roxcy O'Neal Bolton fought and lobbied for the passing of the Equal Rights Amendment and was considered the driving force for the annual designation of August 26<sup>th</sup> as Women's Equality Day; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1971, Roxcy O'Neal Bolton led a march along Flagler Street, courageously promoted awareness and support of victim's rights, and through her persistent efforts, Florida's first women's rescue shelter, Women in Distress, and the nation's first hospital-based Rape Treatment Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital (renamed the Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center in 1993) were founded in 1972 and 1974, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1974 Roxcy O'Neal Bolton organized Florida's first Crime Watch meeting to help curtail crimes against women and was instrumental in bringing public attention to sexual assault cases, despite opposition; and

**WHEREAS**, Roxcy O'Neal Bolton is credited with persuading the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to discontinue naming hurricanes solely after women and to include the names of men; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1984, Roxcy O'Neal Bolton was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame, her Coral Gables home was dedicated as a Florida Heritage Site in 1999, her artifacts housed at the Museum of Florida History; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1992, The Women's Park, the first park devoted to women in the nation and housing the Roxcy O'Neal Bolton Women History Gallery (built, 2000) was dedicated in Dade County, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, in March, the National Women's History Project (NWHP) will celebrate Roxcy O'Neal Bolton in Washington D.C. as one of the 2014 National Women's History Month Honorees under the national theme "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment;" and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No.14-012 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Roxcy O'Neal Bolton as a civic leader, victim's advocate, and women's rights pioneer.

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

**Presented this twelfth day of February, A.D. 2014**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary