

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-076 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE AMITOFO CARE CENTER OF AFRICA AND FOUNDER, MASTER HUI-LI

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

The Amitofo Care Center (ACC) is a registered international non-governmental organization in Africa. It was founded by a Taiwanese monk, Buddhist Master Hui-Li, after discovering babies abandoned and left in garbage cans and witnessing hundreds of orphans dying of diseases and neglect during a visit to Africa in 1992. ACC opened its first center in Malawi on October 2005 with room to house 600 orphans.

ACC under the supervision of Master Hui-Li and with the support of the Chinese/Taiwanese communities has provided children with a safe living environment, one where they can be nursed back to health, as well as, providing them with opportunities to receive a proper education including lessons about the Chinese culture, fine arts and martial arts. Since 2007 ACC showcases the children's cultural talents by taking them on Goodwill Missions all over the world. This year 12 children and eight chaperones led by Master Hui-Li are spending two months performing in 11 major cities in North America, including Miami. Performances range from singing and dancing to martial arts demonstrations.

The goal of ACC is to raise orphans with a healthy mental, physical and spiritual disposition. Today the care center serves over 6,000 children and provides similar programs in six other countries. ACC's model is based on a "Big Family" or "Children's Village" idea. Twelve families form a village where each family consists of a group of 16-20 orphan children, a nanny, and two adults that provide the roles of mom and teacher. The families get to interact with one another thus allowing all of the children to experience a full life of positive interactions.

The School Board commends Master Hui-Li and the Amitofo Care Center for its humanitarian efforts in providing orphan children the opportunity to enjoy health, freedom from starvation, disease, and an untimely death, a family-like experience and a proper education in order to become contributing members of the global family.

Good cause exists to vary from the published agenda in order to honor Master Hui-Li and ACC on the day they are visiting Miami.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-076 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Amitofo Care Center of Africa and founder, Master Hui-Li.

**Good Cause
H-15**

RESOLUTION NO. 14-076
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE
AMITOFO CARE CENTER OF AFRICA AND FOUNDER, MASTER HUI-LI

WHEREAS, The Amitofo Care Center (ACC) is a registered international non-governmental organization in Africa. It was founded by a Taiwanese monk, Buddhist Master Hui-Li, after discovering babies abandoned in garbage cans and witnessing hundreds of orphans dying of diseases and neglect during a visit to Africa in 1992. ACC opened its first center in Malawi on October 2005 with room to house 600 orphans; and

WHEREAS, ACC, under the supervision of Master Hui-Li and with the support of the Chinese/Taiwanese communities, has provided children with a safe living environment, one where they can be nursed back to health, as well as, providing them with opportunities to receive a proper education including lessons about the Chinese culture, fine arts and martial arts; and

WHEREAS, Since 2007, ACC showcases the children's cultural talents by taking them on Goodwill Missions all over the world. This year 12 children, Emmanuel Mangani, Henry Kananje, Mabyuto Luka, Enock Belo, Misheck Jackson, Daudi Demusa, Foster Mpinganjira, Henry Majawa, Chisomo Luis, Felista Muopana, Melia Kabu and Chigaga Etiness and eight chaperones led by Master Hui-Li are spending two months performing in 11 major cities in North America, including Miami, thus exposing the children to the realities of the global community. Performances range from singing and dancing to martial arts demonstrations; and,

WHEREAS, The goal of ACC is to raise orphans with a healthy mental, physical and spiritual disposition, the care center currently serves over 6,000 children in similar programs in six other countries. ACC's model is based on a "Big Family" or "Children's Village" idea as twelve families, consisting of 16-20 orphaned children, form a village with a nanny and two adults, a role model mom and a teacher. The families interact with one another thus allowing all of the children to experience a full life of positive interactions; and

WHEREAS, The School Board commends Master Hui-Li and the Amitofo Care Center for its humanitarian efforts in providing orphan children the opportunity to enjoy health, freedom from starvation, disease, and an untimely death, a family-like experience and a proper education in order to become contributing members of the global family.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-076 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Amitofo Care Center of Africa and Founder, Master Hui-Li.

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

Presented this sixth day of August, A.D. 2014

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary