

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-XXX  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING PENELOPE TOWNSLEY**

**COMMITTEE:               INNOVATION,   GOVERNMENTAL   RELATIONS,   AND  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
BLUEPRINT:               INFORMED,       ENGAGED       AND       EMPOWERED  
STAKEHOLDERS**

In 2011, Ms. Townsley became Miami-Dade County's first black Supervisor of Elections, overseeing the largest elections operation in the State of Florida. She administers an average of 20 federal, state and local elections annually for the County's 1.4 million registered voters across its 34 municipalities and unincorporated Miami-Dade County. During countywide elections, she oversees up to 400,000 absentee ballots, up to 30 Early Voting locations and as many as 783 precincts on Election Day.

Penelope Townsley began her career with Miami-Dade County in 1980. She was appointed as Assistant to the Director for the Department of Business Development (DBD) in 1998, and served as Acting Deputy Director in 2002. In 2003, Ms. Townsley was appointed as Deputy Supervisor of Elections at the Elections Department to restructure the organization and develop guiding principles. She was promoted to Chief Deputy Supervisor of Elections in 2006.

Recognizing her desire for a challenge and interest in promoting opportunities for small businesses, Ms. Townsley was appointed as Director of the Department of Small Business Development (SBD) in 2007.

As Supervisor of Elections, Ms. Townsley manages a staff of 94 full-time, up to 1,500 temporary staff, and more than 8,000 poll worker positions with an annual budget of up to \$34 million. Ms. Townsley has been involved in civic engagement activities with schools throughout the county; teaching our students the importance of voting and the democratic process.

The School Board commends Penelope Townsley for her extensive public service and commitment to the citizens and students of Miami-Dade County and the state of Florida.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**   That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-XXX of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Penelope Townsley