

Dr. Marta Pérez Wurtz, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-101 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING COL. JOSIE FERNANDEZ

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

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

Col. Josie Fernandez recently retired from the United States armed forces after a long and illustrious career of service to her country which started in 1988 when she joined the Air Force Reserve in Sacramento, California.

In 1993 she joined the National Park Service and distinguished herself by leading restoration efforts at six historic buildings in Bathhouse Row, a National Historic Landmark District at Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas. It boasts the grandest collection of bathhouses of its kind in America. Thanks to her efforts four of these buildings reopened and now house modern spas, serve as dining facilities, and are home to Artist in Residence programs. She is the first woman to serve as Superintendent of Hot Springs National Park since it was legislated by the United States Congress in 1832.

When her country called upon her after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Col. Fernandez served on active duty at the Pentagon as a member of the Air Force Crisis Action Team, and in support positions at the Department of Defense and the Air Force Public Affairs Operations Center. In her last duty assignment, she served as special assistant for public affairs to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

Col. Fernandez was named "1999 Woman of Distinction" by the New York State Senate and in 2007 the Arkansas Business and Professional Women Association presented her with the "Women Mean Business" state award. In 2008 the Arkansas Society of the Daughters of American Revolution awarded her with the DAR Patriotism medal during their 100th State Convention.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Col. Fernandez arrived in the United States at the age of 12 and attended Hialeah Junior and Hialeah Senior High Schools, where she graduated President of her class. She is married to Charles Hiatt, a U.S. Air Force veteran and they have two adult children.

Col. Fernandez has brought honor and distinction to her community and is to be commended for her years of exemplary service to her country.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTA PÉREZ WURTZ: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-101 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Col. Josie Fernandez.