

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-041 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING FORMER CHIEF CLARENCE DICKSON**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

In June of 1960, just out of the Air Force and new to Miami, Mr. Dickson unaware that African Americans had been fighting for years to get black recruits into the Miami Police Academy, graduated in Miami Police Department Class #44.

Mr. Dickson encounter with a black police officer, who led him to join the Police force. In 1960, while at a bus stop waiting to go to work he was approached by a Black officer who started asking him questions. The officer was impressed with Mr. Dickson's work ethic and said, "Why don't you go and take the test?" recounted Mr. Dickson. "What test?" the officer responded, "the police test." At the time, Miami was still segregated with Black officers only being allowed to patrol Miami's black neighborhoods: Liberty City, Coconut Grove and Overtown, also called the Central Negro District.

Black officers were forced to take special routes to avoid driving through white communities and could only reach the status of Patrolmen, because they were not graduates of the Police Academy. Before Mr. Dickson, black officers received peer-to-peer on-the-job training. They were not allowed in the all-white police academy.

While preparing for a ride along during police academy, one of the black officers walked over and said, "Some of us lost our jobs fighting to get blacks into the academy, don't let us down." Mr. Clarence Dickson, who was flunking out of the academy at that time, worked tirelessly and became the first black graduate of the City of Miami Police Academy and rose to become Miami's first black police chief in 1985.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approved Resolution No. 19-041 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Former Chief Clarence Dickson.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-041  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FLORIDA,  
HONORING FORMER CHIEF CLARENCE DICKSON**

**WHEREAS**, In June of 1960, just out of the Air Force and new to Miami, Mr. Dickson unaware that African Americans had been fighting for years to get black recruits into the Miami Police Academy, graduated in Miami Police Department Class #44; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Dickson encounter with a black police officer led him to join the Police force. In 1960, while at a bus stop waiting to go to work he was approached by a Black Officer who started asking him questions; and

**WHEREAS**, the officer was impressed with Mr. Dickson's work ethic and said, "Why don't you go and take the test?" recounted Mr. Dickson "What test?" The officer responded, "the police test." At the time, Miami was still segregated with Black officers only being allowed to patrol Miami's black neighborhoods: Liberty City, Coconut Grove and Overtown, also called the Central Negro District; and

**WHEREAS**, black officers were forced to take special routes to avoid driving through white communities and could only reach the status of Patrolmen because they were not graduates of the Police Academy. Before Mr. Dickson, black officers received peer-to-peer on-the-job training. They were not allowed in the all-white police academy, and

**WHEREAS**, while preparing for a ride along during police academy one of the black officers walked over and said, "Some of us lost our jobs fighting to get blacks into the academy, don't let us down." Mr. Clarence Dickson, who was flunking out of the academy at that time, worked tirelessly and became the first black graduate of the City of Miami Police Academy and rose to become Miami's first black police chief in 1985.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-041 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Former City of Miami Police Chief. Clarence Dickson.

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

**Presented this nineteenth day of June, A.D. 2019**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary