

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. 19-051 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DR. SHIRLEY BAILEY JOHNSON

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Dr. Shirley Bailey Johnson is the oldest of three children born to Lucille and Samuel Bailey. She was raised in a family where education, justice, fair treatment and equal opportunity was the daily conversation. Not only was it discussed often, but her father, Sam Bailey was a noted Mississippi, Freedom Fighter and Civil Rights leader; and

Her first job was filing papers and cleaning the office of slain NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Leader Medgar Wiley Evers. She was only 10 years old and Evers was a good friend of the family. She was permitted to listen in on Evers strategic conversations with her father and other Civil Rights leaders like, Thurgood Marshall, Roy Wilkins, Vernon Jordan, Margaret Belafonte, Lena Horne, Kurt Flood, Bill Russell, Constance Motley and Jackie Robinson as they made plans to launch direct action campaigns to end racism and segregation in America; and

In 1955, she spoke before a capacity audience at a NAACP mass meeting where the guest speaker, Jackie Robinson was in attendance. Her speech entitled, "A Talk with God" was received with a thunderous ovation of applause and cheers. Two days later, her father filed the first lawsuit, against the Jackson, Mississippi Public Schools System on behalf of his three children, to desegregate all Public schools in the city. This action caused her mother to lose her job, and the threats from the KKK became a daily occurrence; and

She has marched in countless civil-rights protests including the historic March on Washington, where Dr. Martin L. King delivered his famous "I have a Dream Speech." She has also gone to jail for her beliefs. When Medgar Wiley Evers was assassinated, she went to jail for marching in protest over his death. Officers met her with physical and verbal abuse as she marched peacefully chanting, "Every death shall not be in vain." She was arrested and taken to unfriendly confines in the stock compound of the Mississippi State Fairgrounds. Separated in two building by gender, and segregated by race, her bed was the cold hard floors and the food she ate was prepared in large garbage cans; and

She is truly a woman of God committed and passionate about the quality of life for children. In 1980 she organized Miami- Dade Youth Council NAACP and served as an advisor for over 30 years. Her ability to mentor and encourage youth to reach their highest potential sets her apart from the average leader. Johnson participated in a hunger strike in support of Haitian Refugee children locked up at Guantanamo Bay. She wrote letters to former Attorney General, Janet Reno, insisting that she authorize the release of the Haitian children to family members in the Miami area. She continued to focus her efforts on the homeless population, and under her direction the Youth adopted the Miami-Dade County Emergency Housing Center and supported children and their families with after school tutoring, school supplies and sponsored meals for hundreds of current and former residents; and

In 1988, she joined the United Teachers of Dade Staff and moved up the ranks to become the first African American and the first woman to serve as Chief of Staff of the fourth largest teachers union in the nation. She was appointed as Acting President in 2002; and

Dr. Johnson is a dedicated mother of two daughters and grandmother of four grandchildren. She is an Elder at New Way Fellowship Praise & Worship Church, where she serves as a member of the Board of Directors, and Sunday school teacher. She is the former- President of Miami-Dade Branch NAACP, Education Chair, NAACP Florida State, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sigma Sorority, and author of Stay Slim God's Way, an eight week manual filled with scriptures, songs, and affirmations to reap the rewards of living a healthy life. She has over 40 years of experience as a teacher and administrator in the Miami-Dade County Public School System.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-051 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Shirley Bailey Johnson.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-051
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING DR. SHIRLEY BAILEY JOHNSON FORMER PRESIDENT OF MIAMI
DADE BRANCH OF NAACP

WHEREAS, Dr. Shirley Bailey Johnson is the oldest of three children born to Lucille and Samuel Bailey. She was raised in a family where education, justice, fair treatment and equal opportunity was the daily conversation. Not only was it discussed often, but her father, Sam Bailey was a noted Mississippi, Freedom Fighter and Civil Rights leader; and

WHEREAS, her first job was filing papers and cleaning the office of slain NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Leader Medgar Wiley Evers. She was only 10 years old and Evers was a good friend of the family. She was permitted to listen in on Evers strategic conversations with her father and other Civil Rights leaders like, Thurgood Marshall, Roy Wilkins, Vernon Jordan, Margaret Belafonte, Lena Horne, Kurt Flood, Bill Russell, Constance Motley and Jackie Robinson as they made plans to launch direct action campaigns to end racism and segregation in America; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, she spoke before a capacity audience at a NAACP mass meeting where the guest speaker, Jackie Robinson was in attendance. Her speech entitled, "A Talk with God" was received with a thunderous ovation of applause and cheers. Two days later, her father filed the first lawsuit, against the Jackson, Mississippi Public Schools System on behalf of his three children, to desegregate all Public schools in the city. This action caused her mother to lose her job, and the threats from the KKK became a daily occurrence; and

WHEREAS, she has marched in countless civil-rights protests including the historic March on Washington, where Dr. Martin L. King delivered his famous "I have a Dream Speech." She has also gone to jail for her beliefs. When Medgar Wiley Evers was assassinated, she went to jail for marching in protest over his death. Officers met her with physical and verbal abuse as she marched peacefully chanting, "Every death shall not be in vain." She was arrested and taken to unfriendly confines in the stock compound of the Mississippi State Fairgrounds. Separated in two building by gender, and segregated by race, her bed was the cold hard floors and the food she ate was prepared in large garbage cans; and

WHEREAS, she is truly a woman of God committed and passionate about the quality of life for children. In 1980 she organized Miami- Dade Youth Council NAACP and served as an advisor for over 30 years. Her ability to mentor and encourage youth to reach their highest potential sets her apart from the average leader. Johnson participated in a hunger strike in support of Haitian Refugee children locked up at Guantanamo Bay. She wrote letters to former Attorney General, Janet Reno, insisting that she authorize the release of the Haitian children to family members in the Miami area. She continued to focus her efforts on the homeless population, and under her direction the Youth adopted the Miami-Dade County Emergency Housing Center and supported children and their families with after school tutoring, school supplies and sponsored meals for hundreds of current and former residents; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, she joined the United Teachers of Dade Staff and moved up the ranks to become the first African American and the first woman to serve as Chief of Staff of the fourth largest teachers union in the nation. She was appointed as Acting President in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson is a dedicated mother of two daughters and grandmother of four grand- children. She is an Elder at New Way Fellowship Praise & Worship Church, where she serves as a member of the Board of Directors, and Sunday school teacher. She is the former-President of Miami-Dade Branch NAACP, Education Chair, NAACP Florida State, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sigma Sorority, and author of Stay Slim God's Way, an eight week manual filled with scriptures, songs, and affirmations to reap the rewards of living a healthy life. She has over 40 years of experience as a teacher and administrator in the Miami-Dade County Public School System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-051 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dr. Shirley Bailey Johnson.

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

Presented this second day of October A.D. 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary