

Mr. Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., Member

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 00-12 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AT THE REQUEST OF MR. DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M.S., SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER, PROCLAIMING SOLIDARITY WITH NICARAGUAN FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE IMPENDING EXPIRATION OF THE NICARAGUAN ADJUSTMENT AND CENTRAL AMERICAN RELIEF ACT (NACARA).**

Since 1979, when the Sandinista regime assumed control of their homeland, approximately 100,000 Nicaraguans have established residence in Miami-Dade County. At last count 8,765 Nicaraguan-born youngsters were attending kindergarten through 12th grade in this county's public schools, and doubtless many other students in the school system have parents who were born in Nicaragua.

Nicaraguans in Miami-Dade County have proven to be hard-working, law-abiding citizens, with a low crime rate, low dependency on welfare and unemployment compensation, and strong civic commitment.

Local, state, and federal initiatives, such as the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA), have not proven satisfactory in relieving the immigration status of Nicaraguan residents due to the cost and other burdens to those families covered by the act, which has not been smoothly implemented.

The pending expiration of NACARA on March 31, 2000, threatens some 56,000 Nicaraguans residing in Miami-Dade County and their American-born children with deportation to their country of origin, a country with different values than those they have adopted. Moreover, the economic conditions under which they would return will change their lives forever, blocking their opportunity to a better future for themselves and their children in this country.

For these reasons, it is appropriate for The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, to proclaim solidarity with those Nicaraguan families affected by the impending expiration of NACARA.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MR. DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M.S.:**

Request for approval of resolution No. 00-12 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, at the request of Mr. Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., School Board Member, proclaiming solidarity with Nicaraguan families affected by the impending expiration of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA).

**RESOLUTION NO. 00-12  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AT  
THE REQUEST OF MR. DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M.S., SCHOOL BOARD  
MEMBER, PROCLAIMING SOLIDARITY WITH NICARAGUAN FAMILIES  
AFFECTED BY THE IMPENDING EXPIRATION OF THE NICARAGUAN  
ADJUSTMENT AND CENTRAL AMERICAN RELIEF ACT (NACARA)**

**WHEREAS**, approximately 100,000 Nicaraguans have established residence in Miami-Dade County since they started large-scale emigration to the United States in 1979, when policies of the dictatorial and inhumane Sandinista regime began causing widespread socioeconomic and political destruction of their homeland; and

**WHEREAS**, at last count 8,765 Nicaraguan-born youngsters were attending kindergarten through 12th grade in Miami-Dade County's public schools, and many other students in the school system have parents who were born in Nicaragua; and

**WHEREAS**, Nicaraguan families presently reside throughout Miami-Dade County, and have proven to be law-abiding and industrious, with a low crime index, little dependency on welfare and unemployment compensation, and strong civic commitment; and

**WHEREAS**, local, state, and federal initiatives, such as the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA), have not relieved the immigration status of Nicaraguan residents due to the cost and other burdens to those families covered by the act, which has not been smoothly implemented; and

**WHEREAS**, the pending expiration of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act on March 31, 2000, threatens some 56,000 Nicaraguans residing in Miami-Dade County and their American-born children with deportation to their country of origin, a country with different values than those they have adopted;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 00-12 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, at the request of Mr. Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., School Board Member, proclaiming solidarity with Nicaraguan families affected by the impending expiration of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA).

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

Presented this fifteenth day of March, A. D. 2000

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

Attest:

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Secretary