

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of May 15, 2002

May 13, 2002

Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 02-25 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROCLAIMING MAY 2002 AS CIVILITY MONTH

As the cornerstone of democracy, Americans have observed certain rules of behavior generally known as civility. Derived from the Latin *civitas*, meaning city, and *civis*, meaning citizen, civility is behavior worthy of people living in a community in which the open exchange of public discourse is essential to the democratic system of government.

To promote civility in the conduct of the public's business, The Florida Bar is urging governments throughout the state to proclaim May 2002 as "Civility Month" and calls upon all citizens to exercise civility toward each other.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 02-25 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, proclaiming May 2002 as Civility Month.

MRS:hd

**REPLACEMENT
A-1**

RESOLUTION NO.02-25 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROCLAIMING MAY 2002, AS
CIVILITY MONTH

WHEREAS, an open exchange of public discourse is essential to the democratic system of government; and

WHEREAS, as a cornerstone of democracy, Americans have observed certain rules of behavior generally known as civility; and

WHEREAS, derived from the Latin *civitas*, meaning city, and *civis*, meaning citizen, civility is behavior worthy of people living in a community or in common with others; and

WHEREAS, displays of anger, rudeness, ridicule, impatience, and a lack of respect and personal attacks detract from the open exchange of ideas, prevent fair discussion of issues and can discourage individuals from participation in government; and

WHEREAS, civility can assist in reaching consensus on diverse issues and allow for mutually respectful ongoing relationships; and

WHEREAS, civility can uplift our daily life and make it more pleasant to live in an organized society; and

WHEREAS, the City, County and Local Government Law Section of The Florida Bar urges the adoption of a pledge of civility by all citizens of the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, joins The Florida Bar and governments throughout the state in proclaiming May 2002 as Civility Month.

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

Presented this fifteenth day of May, A. D. 2002

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary