

August 14, 2003

Mr. Frank J. Cobo, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-41 OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
HONORING THE LATE MS. CELIA CRUZ, A WORLD RENOWNED  
ENTERTAINER**

Revised

**COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

Ms. Celia Cruz, a Cuban-American icon, was a world renowned and vibrant entertainer who made enormous contributions to our South Florida community through her music and her presence. She was not only an inspiration to those who knew and admired her talent, but the epitome of a generous donor to the many humanitarian causes in which she so strongly believed.

A vocal powerhouse, she began her career in the 1940's singing everything from Afro-Cuban and religious music to mambos, cha-chas and modern salsa. She performed with every major Latin bandleader, recording more than 70 albums. Interestingly, this Havana born singer, who studied at the Havana Conservatory, originally studied to be a teacher. Her love of children, teaching and learning never faded.

Her accomplishments and honors include two Grammy awards and the first ever Latin Grammy award for her performances for tropical and salsa albums, an honorary doctorate degree from Yale University, having Celia Cruz Way added to the name of Calle Ocho — S. W. 8th St. — and being presented with the National Medal of Arts by Bill Clinton, President of the United States.

Ms. Celia Cruz's strength of character, superior creativity and unquestionable contributions to the arts as well as to humanity stand as a monument to a woman of stellar reputation and talent. She is an educator by example. Therefore, it is fitting that our School Board approve a resolution in her honor.

Revised

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MR. FRANK J. COBO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 03-41 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring the late Ms. Celia Cruz, a world renowned entertainer.

Revised

FJC:jlm

**REVISED**  
**D-6**

RESOLUTION NO. 03-41  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
HONORING THE LATE MS. CELIA CRUZ, A WORLD RENOWNED  
ENTERTAINER

Revised

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Celia Cruz, who was born in Havana, Cuba, launched her career in the 1940's singing everything from Afro-Cuban and religious music to mambos, cha-chas and modern salsa; and

**WHEREAS**, a vibrant and world renowned entertainer, she performed with every major Latin bandleader and recorded more than 70 albums, three of which earned her Grammy awards including the first ever Latin Grammy for a tropical album; and

**WHEREAS**, after relocating to the United States, her music continued to link her with people throughout the entire world, but nowhere was that linkage stronger than it was with the people right here in Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, this lively, vocal powerhouse and revered Cuban-American icon not only shared her music, but made enormous contributions to our community through her presence and generous donations to many humanitarian causes; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Celia Cruz, who originally wanted to be a teacher, became an educator by example and received an honorary doctorate degree from Yale University; and

**WHEREAS**, because of her, great lessons were taught to us about happiness and generosity as well as the joy of music; and

**WHEREAS**, the contributions of Ms. Celia Cruz to the arts and to the betterment of humanity will never be forgotten;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 03-41 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring the late Ms. Celia Cruz, a world renowned entertainer.

Revised

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

Presented this twentieth day of August, A. D. 2003

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary