

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-22 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE FREEZE OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION CITIZENSHIP FEES

REVISED

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE STUDENT EXPOSURE AND UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL ISSUES AND ECONOMY

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida strongly supports freezing the current immigration and naturalization citizenship fees.

REVISED

One of the most significant barriers that could place the dream of U.S. citizenship beyond the reach of thousands of legal permanent residents would be the proposal of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to raise the fees for starting the naturalization process from \$400 to \$675. The freezing of those fees at their current level, and explicitly authorize Congress to appropriate funds to supplement those fees to help cover the type of costs that the USCIS claims are largely responsible for the fee hikes, such as infrastructure investments, capital improvements, and business system upgrades. The USCIS must then re-evaluate its need for the proposed increases in light of the funds available from Congress, and the agency may be able to reduce the amount of the hike, or avoid it altogether.

REVISED

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ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 07-22 supporting the freeze of immigration and naturalization citizenship fees.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 07-22
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
SUPPORTS FREEZING IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION CITIZENSHIP
FEES**

REVISÉ

WHEREAS, 8 million Americans that are legal residents are eligible to become U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, the most significant barriers that could place the dream of U.S. citizenship beyond the reach of thousands of legal permanent residents is an increase in citizenship fees; and

WHEREAS, by increasing citizenship will promote greater involvement in the community by a greater number of its residents; and

REVISÉ

WHEREAS, increased citizenship will give a greater voice to communities that previously were ineligible to vote; and

WHEREAS, freezing citizenship fees will help newcomers surmount obstacles to U.S. citizenship.

REVISÉ

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approves Resolution No. 07-22 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supports the freeze of immigration and naturalization citizenship fees.

REVISÉ

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

Presented this eighteenth day of April, A.D. 2007

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY