

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member

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

**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.

Enlisting the support of states, municipalities, and school boards, The National Association of Latino Appointed and Elected Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund has undertaken a nationwide effort to freeze the rising cost of U.S. naturalization. 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 further raise the fees for the naturalization process from \$400 to \$675. This proposed cost is prohibitive for most working-class legal residents, especially in light of a more than 400% increase in fees over the past decade. Freezing the fees at their current level will make citizenship more affordable to 8 million Americans that are eligible to become U.S. citizens. By increasing citizenship, many of our countrymen, and more specifically, members of our community, will obtain the treasured privileges and duties synonymous with U.S. Citizenship.

REVISED

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

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

**REVISED<sup>2</sup>**

**H-11**

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

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

**WHEREAS, the increase in citizenship fees presents a significant barrier to citizenship for eligible residents; and**

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

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

**WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is home to thousands of legal residents who live, work and study in our community everyday; and**

**WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is home to thousands of legal residents who contribute to its economy every day; and**

**WHEREAS, freezing citizenship fees will help legal residents who would otherwise qualify, to obtain U.S. citizenship.**

**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.

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

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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SECRETARY