

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 07-36 RECOGNIZING DR. DOROTHY JENKINS FIELDS FOR HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AS A HISTORIAN AND EDUCATOR**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL       EXCELLENCE       AND       COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

Motivated by a desire to make a difference in her community, Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields has made it her life's mission to preserve the history of South Florida's African American community.

A native of Miami and a graduate of Booker T. Washington Senior High School, Dr. Fields earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, a Master's degree from The University of Colorado, and a Ph.D. in Public History and African American History from the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Through her leadership and determination Dr. Fields has been instrumental in restoring and preserving many of Miami's historical buildings. They include: the Lyric Theatre, The Cola Nip Bottling Company, The Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, St. John Institutional Baptist Church, and the Dorsey House. All six buildings are now on the National Register of Historic places.

Educating the community, especially children, about Miami's rich history also has been an important mission of Dr. Fields. In 1992, Dr. Fields created The Miami-Dade Black Heritage Trail so that all school children would have the opportunity to learn more about locations that are important to African American history in Miami-Dade County.

Among Dr. Fields' most significant accomplishments is the founding of the Black Archives History and Research Foundation of South Florida. The foundation has served as an important vehicle for the preservation and protection of Miami's Black history and cultural traditions.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**       That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 07-36 recognizing Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields for her outstanding contributions as a historian and educator.

**RESOLUTION NO. 07-36 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING DR. DOROTHY JENKINS FIELDS  
FOR HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AS  
A HISTORIAN AND EDUCATOR**

Whereas, Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields, has made it her life's mission to protect and preserve the history of Miami's African American community; and

Whereas, Dr. Fields earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, a Master's degree from The University of Colorado, and a Ph.D. in Public History and African American History from the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio; and

Whereas, Dr. Fields' leadership and determination led to the restoration and preservation of many of Miami's historical buildings, including the Lyric Theatre, the Cola Nip Bottling Company, The Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, St. John Institutional Baptist Church, and the Dorsey House. All six buildings are on the National Register of Historic places; and

Whereas, Dr. Fields is a strong advocate for educating the community, especially children, about the rich history of Miami-Dade's African American community; and

Whereas, Dr. Fields created the Miami-Dade Black Heritage Trail so that all school children would have the opportunity to learn more about locations that are important to African American history in Miami-Dade County; and

Whereas, one of Dr. Fields' most significant accomplishments is the founding of the Black Archives History and Research Foundation of South Florida. The foundation has served as an important vehicle for the preservation and protection of Miami's Black history and cultural traditions;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 07-36 recognizing Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields for her outstanding contributions as a historian and educator.

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

**Presented this thirteenth day of June, A.D. 2007**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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SECRETARY