

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 07-34 RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMUNITY LEGACY OF MR. THIRLEE SMITH, SR.**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

Born in Timpson, Texas on June 2, 1912, Thirlee Smith, Sr. lived his life serving his community. He was a mentor to hundreds of children and young adults, always stressing to them the importance of education.

As a civil rights activist and community leader, Thirlee Smith, Sr. helped to register hundreds of Opa-locka residents to vote. His commitment to community activism led him to organize a community drive resulting in pay raises and uniforms for Opa-locka sanitation workers. Demonstrating an astute business sense and entrepreneurial spirit, Smith was able to save the money needed to establish and operate the first billiard hall in Opa-locka. The city recently honored Smith by naming a street in his honor.

After moving to Miami in the late 1930s, Smith and his wife Beulah built a three-bedroom home making them one of the city's first African-American families to become homeowners. Smith helped to shape the political landscape of the city of Opa-locka through his community activism and business partnerships. In addition to his many civic and political contributions, Smith's community legacy is evidenced by the lives and contributions of his three children – Odessa S.F. Cook, a retired teacher, Thirlee Smith, Jr. a former Miami-Dade County Public Schools administrator, and Dr. Frederica S. Wilson, a state senator.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 07-34 recognizing the outstanding contributions and community legacy of Mr. Thirlee Smith, Sr.

**RESOLUTION NO. 07-34  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AND  
COMMUNITY LEGACY OF MR. THIRLEE SMITH, SR.**

Whereas, Thirlee Smith, Sr. was a mentor to hundreds of children and young adults always stressing the importance of education; and

Whereas, Mr. Smith demonstrated a passion to serve through his commitment to community activism and his concern for humanity; and

Whereas, Mr. Smith was a loving husband to the former Beulah Finely and a devoted father to Odessa S.F.Cook, Thirlee Smith Jr. and State Senator Frederica S. Wilson; and

Whereas, Mr. Smith's entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish the first billiard hall in Opa-locka which became a hub for political and community activities; and

Whereas, Mr. Smith's commitment to his community led him to organize voter registration drives where he helped to register hundreds of Opa-locka residents to vote; and

Whereas, Mr. Smith was a long-time member of Revival Tabernacle Assembly Church of God where he served as a deacon for many years; and

Whereas, the city of Opa-locka recently honored Smith by naming a street in his honor;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 07-34 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the outstanding contributions and community legacy of Mr. Thirlee Smith, Sr.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY