

July 20, 2011

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of August 3, 2011

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 11-094 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING ARTHUR BERGER, FORMER AVENTURA COMMISSIONER

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Former City of Aventura Commissioner, Arthur Berger, who is 90 years young, is a brilliant example of health, creativity, and vitality as a senior citizen of our community. His many accomplishments include authoring five books, writing and acting in a one-man play, serving an extended five-year term as Aventura Commissioner, and lecturing at local colleges.

Arthur Berger is a veteran of World War II and Korea, a New York University School of Law graduate, and served as attorney for Port Jefferson in Long Island, New York. He was elected as one of the first commissioners in Aventura, where he launched Project Matchup, a program that organized hundreds of senior citizens to volunteer and tutor students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

At the age of 68, he wrote his first book, *Lives and Letters in American Parapsychology*, a biographical account of parapsychology researchers who study extrasensory perception and other paranormal phenomena, which paved the way for four more books, including *The Encyclopedia of Parapsychology and Psychical Research*, co-authored with his wife, Joyce Berger. At 86, Berger wrote and acted in his one-man play, *Radiant Maiden*, about the poet Edgar Allan Poe.

Today, Arthur Berger serves as an ombudsman for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, in which he visits assisted-living facilities and retirement homes to ensure that residents receive the utmost attention and care. He lectures at Florida Atlantic University and Nova Southeastern University to inspire seniors to maintain an active lifestyle. Arthur's commitment to healthy living is precisely what the District's wellness initiative emphasizes--daily exercise and wiser choices in the area of food and nutrition lead to better health for our students and staff.

Arthur Berger's physical, mental and spiritual vitality has led him to be chosen as one of 16 semifinalists in the *Beautiful Minds: Finding Your Lifelong Potential* contest, which acknowledges people of 55 years of age and older who live physically, mentally and socially engaged lives. He is the oldest semifinalist in this year's campaign. In light of his many triumphs, talents and virtues, Mr. Berger credits his wife of 65 years as the essential source of his overall youthful vitality. Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Arthur Berger for his commitment to education and contributions to the residents of the City of Aventura and Miami-Dade County.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-094 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Arthur Berger, former Aventura Commissioner.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 11-094
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING ARTHUR BERGER, FORMER AVENTURA COMMISSIONER**

WHEREAS, former City of Aventura Commissioner, Arthur Berger, who is 90 years young, is a brilliant example of health, creativity, and vitality as a senior citizen of our community; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments include authoring five books, writing and acting in a one-man play, serving an extended five-year term as Aventura Commissioner, and lecturing at local colleges; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Berger is a veteran of World War II and Korea, a New York University School of Law graduate, and served as attorney for Port Jefferson in Long Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, he launched Project Matchup, a program that organized hundreds of senior citizens to volunteer and tutor students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, Arthur's commitment to healthy living supports the District's wellness initiative and sets an example for our students and staff; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Berger's physical, mental and spiritual vitality has led him to be chosen as one of 16 semifinalists in the *Beautiful Minds: Finding Your Lifelong Potential* contest, which acknowledges people of 55 years of age and older who live physically, mentally and socially engaged lives; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Arthur Berger for his commitment to education and contributions to the residents of the City of Aventura and Miami-Dade County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-094 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Arthur Berger, former Aventura Commissioner.

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

Presented this third day of August A.D. 2011

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary