

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 11-089 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING H.T. SMITH, ESQ., FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of Miami's distinguished native sons, H.T. Smith was born in Miami and educated in Miami's school system. He is a proud graduate of Florida A & M University where he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Upon graduating, Mr. Smith was commissioned an officer in the United States Army and served a tour of duty in the Vietnam War. After returning home, he enrolled in the University of Miami's School of Law where he earned a juris doctor degree in 1973.

Mr. Smith began his legal career by blazing new trails as Miami-Dade County's first African-American Assistant Public Defender and then as the first African-American Assistant County Attorney. For the past 34 years, Mr. Smith has practiced law in Miami, specializing in criminal defense, civil rights and personal injury. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Florida Superlawyers* and *Law and Leading American Attorneys*. Additionally, the *National Law Journal* has recognized Mr. Smith as one of the top trial lawyers in America. In 1976, Mr. Smith was the founding president of the Black Lawyers Association of Miami-Dade County and served four terms. In 1994, he was voted president of the 20,000-member National Bar Association.

In 1995, Mr. Smith and two other attorneys raised \$4 million to build the NFL YET Center at Gwen Cherry Park in the Scott Carver neighborhood. The Youth Center provides homework assistance, computer training, arts and crafts, and all types of sports activities, including fencing, for 500 children daily. He presently serves on the executive committee of the University of Miami Board of Trustees, and the Board of Directors of OUR KIDS, Inc., which provides support and services to all abused, abandoned and neglected children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

In 2003, Mr. Smith was tapped to become the first Director of the Trial Advocacy Program at Florida International University College of Law. Under his leadership, the program and the Mock Trial Team have gained statewide recognition as one of the best among Florida's 10 law schools. In 2006, the student body honored him with the prestigious "Spirit Award" for his consistent commitment to excellence as a legal educator.

The proud father of three daughters: Wyndi, Katrell and Talia. Mr. Smith is to be commended for his more than three decades of community service to the families and children in Miami-Dade County.

ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS MINDINGALL:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-089 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing H.T. Smith, Esq., for his commitment to community service.

**Replacement
H-13**

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-089
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING H. T. SMITH, ESQ., FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE**

WHEREAS, a distinguished native son, H.T. Smith was born in Miami and educated in Miami's school system, and is a proud graduate of Florida A & M University where he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics, and a juris doctor degree from the University of Miami's School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith began his legal career by blazing new trails as Miami-Dade County's first African-American Assistant Public Defender and then as the first African-American Assistant County Attorney. For the past 34 years, Mr. Smith has practiced law in Miami, specializing in criminal defense, civil rights and personal injury; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Mr. Smith was the founding president of the Black Lawyers Association of Miami-Dade County and served four terms, and in 1994, was voted president of the 20,000-member National Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Mr. Smith and two other attorneys raised \$4 million to build the NFL YET Center at Gwen Cherry Park in the Scott Carver neighborhood, which provides homework assistance, computer training, arts and crafts, and all types of sports activities, including fencing, for 500 children daily; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith presently serves on the executive committee of the University of Miami Board of Trustees, and the Board of Directors of OUR KIDS, Inc., which provides support and services to all abused, abandoned and neglected children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Mr. Smith was tapped to become the first Director of the Trial Advocacy Program at Florida International University College of Law. Under his leadership, the program and the Mock Trial team have gained statewide recognition as one of the best among Florida's 10 law schools; and

WHEREAS, the proud father of three daughters: Wyndi, Katrell and Talia. Mr. Smith is to be commended for his more than three decades of community service to the families and children in Miami-Dade County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-089 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing H.T. Smith, Esq., for his commitment to community service.

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

Presented this thirteen day of July, A.D. 2011

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary