

Mr. Carlos L. Curbelo, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-036 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA HONORING MR. FRANK RUIZ**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

A founder of the ING Miami Marathon and Half Marathon, Frank Ruiz is driven by a passion to make Miami more runner-friendly. He has staged and run in marathons and he understands the dedication, adaptability, patience, and fortitude required to do both. Mr. Ruiz was inspired to create the marathon 12 years ago when he met a young athlete by the name of Rudy Garcia. Mr. Garcia, a double amputee, was visiting Miami to participate in a triathlon. Mr. Ruiz introduced him to the mayor and the young man shared his desire to run in a marathon. Because there was no marathon in Miami at the time, the mayor told Mr. Ruiz he wanted a marathon in Miami. Last month the ING Miami Marathon celebrated its tenth anniversary with a sold out field of 25,000 runners. It has become widely known as the premiere race for runners in South America and the Caribbean. Mr. Ruiz has overseen the race since its inception when there were just 3,400 runners. In 2007, the marathon was sold to U.S. Road Sports, but Mr. Ruiz remained as chief running officer.

An avid biker and water sports enthusiast, Mr. Ruiz has been described as a relentless presence, especially when it comes to making Miami a safe and palatable environment for runners. Aside from his job as chief running officer with U.S. Road Sports, he also has coached the Belen High School boys' cross-country team to five state titles and a No. 6 national ranking. Ruiz also leads weekly evening social running groups downtown and in Miami Beach.

The ING Miami Marathon has also created Run For Something Better to make it easier for children to get a healthy start in life. ING Run For Something Better is helping children learn that exercise is fun and rewarding. Through the organization's free school-based running fitness programs, children are challenged to get active, set goals and start a lifetime habit of physical school activity. The initiative also awards grants to schools for up to \$2,500 each to establish school-based running programs or expand existing ones.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Frank Ruiz and the ING Run For Something Better Final Mile for promoting physical fitness and encouraging children and their families to maintain healthy lifestyles.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY MR. CARLOS CURBELO:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-036 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Frank Ruiz and the ING Run For Something Better Final Mile.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-036  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING FRANK RUIZ AND THE ING RUN FOR SOMETHING BETTER FINAL MILE**

**WHEREAS**, a founder of the ING Miami Marathon and Half Marathon, Frank Ruiz is driven by a passion to make Miami more runner-friendly. He has staged and run in marathons and he understands the dedication, adaptability, patience, and fortitude required to do both; and

**WHEREAS**, last month the ING Miami Marathon celebrated its tenth anniversary with a sold out field of 25,000 runners. The event is widely known as the premiere race for runners in South America and the Caribbean; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Ruiz was inspired to create the marathon 12 years ago and he has overseen the race since its inception when there were just 3,400 runners. In 2007, the marathon was sold to U.S. Road Sports, but Mr. Ruiz remained as chief running officer; and

**WHEREAS**, ING Miami Marathon also created Run For Something Better to make it easier for children to get a healthy start in life. The initiative provides free school-based running fitness programs and awards grants to schools for up to \$2,500 each to establish school-based running programs or expand existing ones; and

**WHEREAS**, ING Run For Something Better is helping children learn that exercise is fun and rewarding; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Frank Ruiz and the ING Run For Something Better Final Mile for promoting physical fitness and encouraging children and their families to maintain healthy lifestyles;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-036 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Frank Ruiz and the ING Run For Something Better Final Mile.

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

**Presented this fifteenth day of February, A.D. 2012**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary