

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 12-052 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING JACKIE BELL FOR HER YEARS OF
EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE IN OUR COMMUNITY

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

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

Jackie Bell, founder and Executive Director of New Washington Heights CDC, has been a champion for positive community development within urban counties for the past 38 years. A product of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Ms. Bell has worked in the business field almost her entire life. She has achieved many firsts as an African American such as being the first African-American credit manager for Lerner Stores, as well as being the first appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the Civil Rights Advisory Commission.

During the late 1960s, Ms. Bell joined the Women's Liberation movement to protest the injustices that were ingrained in American society against women. Ms. Bell served as the legislative aide to Gwen Sawyer Cherry, the first African-American woman elected to the Florida Legislature; and as a member of U.S. Congressman Parren Mitchell's Brain Trust for Minority Businesses.

Ms. Bell also played an integral role in the state of Florida by aiding Senator Jack Gordon in passing legislation through the Department of Community Affairs for Community Development Corporations to help redevelop African-American communities. Ms. Bell oversaw the construction of 26 affordable family homes in the Brownsville community of Liberty City. She has helped local, state and federal government leaders in all efforts to bring development opportunities to the inner city.

Ms. Bell is a founding member of both the Rape Treatment Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital, and the Citizen's Crime Watch of Miami Dade County. Her current project is the *Overtown Folk Life Fridays*, an outdoor festival providing food, fun and entertainment for the area residents, and an opportunity for small businesses to gain more exposure and consumers.

The School Board commends Jackie Bell for her years of exemplary community service to the citizens of Miami-Dade County and the state of Florida.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS MINDINGALL:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-052 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Jackie Bell for her years of exemplary community service in our community.

**Replacement
H-16**

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-052
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING JACKIE BELL FOR HER YEARS OF EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE
IN OUR COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, Jackie Bell, founder and Executive Director of New Washington Heights CDC, has been a champion for positive community development within urban counties for the last 38 years; and

WHEREAS, a product of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Ms. Bell has worked in the business field almost her entire life. She has achieved many firsts as an African American such as being the first African-American credit manager for Lerner Stores, as well as being the first appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the Civil Rights Advisory Commission; and

WHEREAS, during the late 1960s, Ms. Bell joined the Women's Liberation movement to protest the injustices that were ingrained in American society against women; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bell served as the legislative aide to Gwen Cherry, the first African-American woman elected to the Florida Legislature; as a member of U.S. Congressman Parren Mitchell's Brain Trust for Minority Businesses; and also played an integral role by aiding Florida State Senator Jack Gordon in passing legislation to help redevelop African-American communities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bell oversaw the construction of 26 affordable family homes in the Brownsville community of Liberty City, in addition to helping local, state and federal government leaders in all efforts to bring development opportunities to the inner city; and

WHEREAS, the School Board commends Jackie Bell for her years of exemplary community service to the citizens of Miami-Dade County and the state of Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-052 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Jackie Bell for her years of exemplary community service in our community.

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

Presented this seventh day of March, A.D. 2012

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary