

Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-110 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, CONGRATULATING JAMAICA ON ITS 50<sup>TH</sup> GOLDEN JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY**

**COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY**

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

The country of Jamaica has a rich cultural history. Jamaica's first inhabitants were the Tainos, an Arawak-speaking people from South America, who called the island "Xaymaca," which means "land of wood and water." The Tainos settled in Jamaica prior to Christopher Columbus' arrival in 1494, who described Jamaica as "the fairest isle mine eyes ever beheld." Columbus' arrival signaled the beginning of nearly 500 years of European occupation and governance.

Spain's occupation of Jamaica began in 1510. The Spanish brought the first African slaves to the island in 1517. The British captured Jamaica in 1655 and gained formal possession of the island in 1670. The slave trade was abolished in the British colonies in 1807, but slavery was not abolished on the island until August 1, 1834. Full emancipation of slaves was declared on August 1, 1838 which is celebrated today as "Emancipation Day." From 1866 through 1884, Jamaica reverted to full crown colony system of government. In 1884, the status was adjusted to a partly representative crown colony government, which lasted to 1944. Jamaica gained independence on August 6, 1962 after more than 300 years of British colonial rule. This year, Jamaica will observe its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence with Golden Jubilee celebrations worldwide.

Jamaica's Diaspora is established in every continent in the world. There are approximately 500,000 Jamaican nationals living in Florida, with large populations in South Florida, Central Florida, and the Tampa Bay area. There are more than 80 Jamaican community organizations in Florida in the areas of education, social services, healthcare, sports and recreation, arts and culture, academia, and business.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is proud of its efforts to support the Jamaican community and recognize and celebrate the many historic, cultural, social, and economic contributions of Jamaicans to the United States and the world.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-110 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, congratulating Jamaica on its 50th Golden Jubilee Anniversary.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-110  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
CONGRATULATING JAMAICA ON ITS 50<sup>TH</sup> GOLDEN JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY**

**WHEREAS**, the country of Jamaica has a rich cultural history. Jamaica's first inhabitants were the Tainos, an Arawak-speaking people from South America, who called the island "Xaymaca," which means "land of wood and water;" and

**WHEREAS**, Christopher Columbus described Jamaica as "the fairest isle mine eyes ever beheld;" and

**WHEREAS**, Columbus' arrival in 1494 signaled the beginning of nearly 500 years of European occupation and governance. Jamaica gained independence on August 6, 1962 after more than 300 years of British colonial rule; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, Jamaica will observe its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence with Golden Jubilee celebrations worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, Jamaica's Diaspora is established in every continent in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 80 Jamaican community organizations in Florida in the areas of education, social services, healthcare, sports and recreation, arts and culture, academia, and business; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools is proud of its efforts to support the Jamaican community and recognize and celebrate the many historic, cultural, social, and economic contributions of Jamaicans to the United States and the world;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-110 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, congratulating Jamaica on its 50th Golden Jubilee Anniversary.

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

**Presented this eighteenth day of July, A.D. 2012**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary