

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 12-170 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING ROBERT TOWNSEND FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**COMMITTEE:** INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

Critically-acclaimed producer, director, writer, and actor Robert Townsend has a sterling reputation as an innovator in the entertainment industry. He has produced and directed films for the big screen and television such as *"Hollywood Shuffle"*, *"The Five Heartbeats"*, *"Holiday Heart"*, *"Carmen: A Hip-Hopera"* and *"10,000 Black Men Named George"*. Mr. Townsend has directed an impressive roster of actors, including Beyoncé Knowles, Eddie Murphy, Halle Barry, Alfre Woodard, Bill Cosby, James Earl Jones, Louis Gossett, Jr., and the late Michael Clarke Duncan.

In addition to his work in film, Mr. Townsend is a long-time supporter of the United Negro College Fund and a consummate philanthropist in his own right. His latest endeavor has seen him partner with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the University of Miami and City of Miami Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones, Chairwoman of the South East Overtown Park West Community Redevelopment Agency, to produce the film, *"Playin' for Love"*. Under their leadership, the community-based film project expanded to a six-week film making program that will include 20 students from Historic Overtown and 25 students from the University of Miami with an opportunity to work under Mr. Townsend on the set of *"Playin' for Love"*. Students will learn all aspects of film production such as cinematography, directing and post-production editing. Historic Overtown will be highlighted in the film as well as our very own: Miami, Miami Jackson, Miami Edison, Miami Northwestern, and Booker T. Washington senior high schools.

Robert Townsend is to be commended for his enthusiastic commitment to seeing this project come to fruition. His efforts extend beyond his invaluable investment in time and tools, to additionally include partnership resources that he has secured for the benefit of greatly enhancing the overall vision. Mr. Townsend recognizes the immediate positive impact that film industry training will provide to the youth of Miami-Dade County by providing exposure to future career options and at the same time cultivating leadership skills that will translate to positive choices presently.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-170 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Robert Townsend for his commitment to education and community service.

**Replacement  
H-11**

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-170  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING ROBERT TOWNSEND FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION  
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, critically-acclaimed producer, director, writer, and actor Robert Townsend has a sterling reputation as an innovator in the entertainment industry. He has produced and directed films for the big screen and television such as "*Hollywood Shuffle*", "*The Five Heartbeats*", "*Holiday Heart*", "*Carmen: A Hip-Hopera*" and "*10,000 Black Men Named George*". Mr. Townsend has directed an impressive roster of actors, including Beyoncé Knowles, Eddie Murphy, Halle Barry, Alfre Woodard, Bill Cosby, James Earl Jones, Louis Gossett, Jr., and the late Michael Clarke Duncan; and

**WHEREAS**, his latest endeavor has seen him partner with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the University of Miami and City of Miami Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones, Chairwoman of the South East Overtown Park West Community Redevelopment Agency, to produce the film "*Playin' for Love*"; and

**WHEREAS**, under their leadership, the community-based film project expanded to a six-week film making program that will include 20 students from Historic Overtown and 25 students from the University of Miami with an opportunity to work under Mr. Townsend on the set of "*Playin' for Love*"; and

**WHEREAS**, students will learn all aspects of film production such as cinematography, directing and post-production editing. Historic Overtown will be highlighted in the film as well as our very own: Miami, Miami Jackson, Miami Edison, Miami Northwestern, and Booker T. Washington senior high schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Robert Townsend is to be commended for his enthusiastic commitment to seeing this project come to fruition. His efforts extend beyond his invaluable investment in time and tools, to additionally include partnership resources that he has secured for the benefit of greatly enhancing the overall vision;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-170 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Robert Townsend for his commitment to education and community service.

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

**Presented this fifth day of December, A.D. 2012**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary