

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-051 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING JUSTINE PADRÓN OF JOSÉ MARTÍ MAST 6-12 ACADEMY AS THE WINNER OF ZOO MIAMI'S & LOCAL10'S ECO-HERO CONTEST

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On January 26, 2015, Zoo Miami and Local 10 news began collecting nominations for the 2015 Eco-Hero Contest. The contest asked the public to nominate students, ages 11-14, in Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties, who had done something extraordinary to help the environment, such as starting a recycling program, organizing a beach cleanup or contributing to wildlife rehabilitation. The winner receives an all-expense paid Eco-Adventure trip this summer to the Canadian Rockies with Zoo Miami's Ron Magill and Local 10 anchor Kristi Krueger.

Five finalists were introduced via Local 10 segments and the public had the opportunity to vote on their favorite. Justine Padrón, a 7th-grade student at José Martí MAST 6-12 Academy, was chosen as the winner. Justine is passionate about nature and credits her grandmother as one of the reasons for becoming interested in ecology and the ecosystem. Justine learned about gardening from her and is growing tomatoes in her own back yard. The 13 year-old also feels at home working in her school's Green Club garden.

Justine participates in the annual community cleanup project of Biscayne Bay known as "Baynanza." She also makes eco-friendly terrariums for her friends and volunteers at South Florida parks. Justine is fascinated with everything related to science, especially how plants and animals, as well as computers and technology are connected. One of her interesting experiments involves using Tilapia fish to discover if natural fertilizer is better for plants than the man-made version.

Justine Padrón is to be commended for her passion, devotion and inspiring enthusiasm for the environment and for being a true Eco-Hero.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-051 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Justine Padrón of José Martí Mast 6-12 Academy as the winner of Zoo Miami's & Local10's Eco-Hero Contest.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-051
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
JUSTINE PADRÓN OF JOSÉ MARTÍ MAST 6-12 ACADEMY AS THE WINNER OF
ZOO MIAMI'S & LOCAL10'S ECO-HERO CONTEST**

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2015, Zoo Miami and Local 10 news began collecting nominations for the 2015 Eco-Hero Contest. The contest asked the public to nominate students, ages 11-14, in Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties, who had done something extraordinary to help the environment, such as starting a recycling program, organizing a beach cleanup or contributing to wildlife rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, The winner receives an all-expense paid Eco-Adventure trip this summer to the Canadian Rockies with Zoo Miami's Ron Magill and Local 10 anchor Kristi Krueger; and

WHEREAS, five finalists were introduced via Local 10 segments and the public had the opportunity to vote on their favorite. Justine Padrón, a 7th-grade student at José Martí MAST 6-12 Academy, was chosen as the winner; and

WHEREAS, Justine is passionate about nature and credits her grandmother as one of the reasons for becoming interested in ecology and the ecosystem. Justine learned about gardening from her and is growing tomatoes in her own back yard. The 13 year-old also feels at home working in her school's Green Club garden; and

WHEREAS, Justine participates in the annual community cleanup project of Biscayne Bay known as "Baynanza." She also makes eco-friendly terrariums for her friends and volunteers at South Florida parks. Justine is fascinated with everything related to science, especially how plants and animals, as well as computers and technology are connected; and

WHEREAS, Justine Padrón is to be commended for her passion, devotion and inspiring enthusiasm for the environment and for being a true Eco-Hero;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-051 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Justine Padrón of José Martí Mast 6-12 Academy as the winner of Zoo Miami's & Local10's Eco-Hero Contest.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of May, A.D. 2015

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary