

Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-043 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MAY 2015 AS HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH AND AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO FOSTER RELATED ACTIVITIES**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT**

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

Throughout the history of Haiti, May has been a month for commemorating Haitian culture, with Haitians across the globe celebrating their achievements and contributions. Among the dates in May that are important in Haitian history is May 18, 1803, when Haitian leaders created the official blue and red Haitian flag at the end of the Congress of Arcahaie. Haitian Heritage Month provides our diverse community an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many historic, cultural, social, and economic contributions of Haitians to the U.S. and the world.

Haiti gained its independence from France in 1804 to become the world's first Black republic and the second democracy after the United States. Haitians and their descendents have also made numerous contributions to politics and the arts and sciences. Jean Baptiste Point DuSable is known as the founder of the city of Chicago. The National Audubon Society was founded in honor of John James Audubon, a Haitian-born naturalist, ornithologist, and artist.

The Haitian American Youth Organization of Kendall (HAYO) is a non-profit interactive organization founded in 1998 by Executive Director Mireille Sylvain David. HAYO encourages and teaches Haitian-American youths to contribute to their communities in positive ways, prepare them to be productive citizens, assure their cultural development, and help them understand the relationships between their cultural identity and the capacity to function in a dominant culture. Members gain cultural self-efficacy, positive cross-cultural attitudes and ethnic identity, sense of competence and self-esteem, better understanding of self and ethnicity, and how to better relate to their parents.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools provides students with many programs that emphasize multicultural education, positive inter-group relations, and cultural sensitivity as a way to promote understanding and harmony among people of all cultures. The Board commends HAYO for promoting Haitian culture

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-043 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing May 2015 as Haitian Heritage Month and authorizing administrative actions to foster related activities.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-043  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING MAY 2015 AS HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH AND AUTHORIZING  
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO FOSTER RELATED ACTIVITIES**

**WHEREAS**, throughout the history of Haiti, May has been a month for commemorating Haitian culture, with Haitians across the globe celebrating their achievements and contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, Haitian Heritage Month provides our diverse community an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many historic, cultural, social, and economic contributions of Haitians to the United States and the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the observance of Haitian Heritage Month will allow students, their families, and the community to share and demonstrate pride in Haitian culture and history; and

**WHEREAS**, the Haitian people are heirs to a magnificent and rich heritage and their descendents have made numerous contributions to politics and the arts and sciences; and

**WHEREAS**, the Haitian American Youth Organization of Kendall (HAYO) is a non-profit interactive organization founded in 1998 by Executive Director Mireille Sylvain David; and

**WHEREAS**, HAYO encourages and teaches Haitian-American youths to contribute to their communities in positive ways, prepare them to be productive citizens, assure their cultural development, and help them understand the relationships between their cultural identity and the capacity to function in a dominant culture:

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools provides students with many programs that emphasize multicultural education, positive inter-group relations, and cultural sensitivity as a way to promote understanding and harmony among people of all cultures;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-043 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing May 2015 as Haitian Heritage Month and authorizing administrative actions to foster related activities.

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

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary