

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-102 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING JORGE PEÑA, THE FOUNDER OF THE GREATER KENDALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Mr. Jorge Peña was born in Cuba on September 4th, 1954 and came to Miami with his parents and older siblings in 1961. He was a graduate of Miami Coral Park Senior High School and Miami-Dade College. Mr. Peña began his career in the printing industry with The Miami Herald. He later went on to become the general manager of Classic Printing in Coconut Grove. It was during this period that he became involved with the Coconut Grove Chamber of Commerce. In 1993, Mr. Peña changed careers and became an insurance agent working with Equitable and then opened his own agency, The JFP Insurance Group, specializing in group health plans and worker supplemental benefits for AFLAC.

In 2005, in seeking to provide support for local businesses in the Kendall area, Mr. Jorge Peña founded the Tamiami Business Association. Subsequently, the Tamiami Business Association changed its name to the West Kendall Business Association (WKBA) to better define the area being served. In 2011, the WKBA sought further assistance from the students at Florida International University, to develop a marketing plan to change the name of the West Kendall Business Association to the Greater Kendall Business Association (GKBA). After the renaming, in 2012, Mr. Peña became the first Chair of the newly-founded Greater Kendall Business Association.

Mr. Peña's goals through his work at the GKBA were to raise the bar for the members with their business opportunities, services, and benefits. He then established its resounding motto "The GKBA is the friendliest place to do business." The mission of the Greater Kendall Business Association is to provide an enterprising and energetic meeting place where members and community business leaders can build successful business relationships in a positive, friendly environment. The association's current membership stands at approximately 300 members and is comprised of members throughout the Greater Kendall area.

On October 7, 2015, the Kendall business community experienced a great loss in the passing of Mr. Jorge Peña. Through his last days, Mr. Peña remained active in the association and in the Kendall community whom he wholeheartedly assisted through his professional career and through his devotion to community service in the Kendall area.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-102 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Jorge Peña, the founder of the Greater Kendall Business Association.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-102
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING JORGE PEÑA, THE FOUNDER OF THE GREATER KENDALL
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

WHEREAS, Mr. Jorge Peña was born on September 4, 1954 and he was a graduate of Miami Coral Park Senior High School.

WHEREAS, Mr. Jorge Peña founded the Tamiami Business Association in seeking to provide support for local businesses in the Kendall area which was later changed to the West Kendall Business Association.

WHEREAS, Mr. Peña was the founder and the first Chair of The Greater Kendall Business Association.

WHEREAS, through Mr. Peña's leadership, the GKBA soared to address the needs of a growing business community.

WHEREAS, Mr. Jorge Peña is recognized for his community service and leadership to the Greater Kendall Business Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-102 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing Jorge Peña, the founder of the Greater Kendall Business Association.

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

Presented this second day of December, A.D. 2015

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary