

Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member

**SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, JOIN IN PROMOTING FEBRUARY 2016 AS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMIC, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

Black History was first recognized on a national level in February 1926, by American historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson when it was observed as Black History Week. The week marked a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of African Americans to this country. It became Black History Month in 1976 as part of the nation's bicentennial.

Every year, Black History Month is given a national theme by the Association for the Study of American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Woodson. This year's theme is "Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African-American Memories". The theme highlights the centennial of the National Parks Service and the Underground Railroad as examples of hallowed grounds. Locally, a self-guided tour will visit more than 25 black churches that are over 100 years old: the Cape Florida Lighthouse, Virginia Key Beach Park, Richmond Heights and the Black Police Precinct & Courthouse Museum.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools champions a comprehensive curriculum that expresses the diversity of its students. National Black History Month provides students with the opportunity to learn about the important role African Americans have made to the growth of this country. Therefore, the school district endorses National Black History Month to be celebrated in all of its schools.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, join in promoting February 2016 as National Black History Month to be celebrated in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools.