

Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member

Co-Sponsor: Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF MAY 2016 AS HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH AND AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO FOSTER RELATED ACTIVITIES**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

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 the official blue and red Haitian flag was created by Haitian leaders 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 United States and the world. The observance will allow students, their families, and the community to share and demonstrate pride in Haitian culture and history.

The country of Haiti has a long and rich cultural history. On January 1, 1804, Haiti gained its independence from France 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.

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.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida endorse May 2016 as Haitian Heritage Month and authorize administrative actions to foster related activities.