

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-067 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING CITY ATTORNEY FOR CORAL GABLES CRAIG E. LEEN**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Craig E. Leen is the City Attorney for Coral Gables and an exemplary citizen who is a dedicated advocate for children with autism and their families. One in 68 children suffer from Autism in America today, totaling 3.5 million children in the nation as a whole. His recognition comes as a result of his professionalism and total commitment to advocating the cause of autism in our community, state, and nation.

Craig E. Leen is responsible for creating the film "Embracing Autism: A Coral Gables Story", which highlights what the City of Coral Gables has done to recognize and alleviate the hardships and challenges facing the families of autistic children today.

An all-around outstanding citizen, Craig E. Leen was appointed to serve as the City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables in 2011. Mr. Leen is the chief legal officer and general counsel for the City, serving as counsel to the City Commission, City Officials, and City Departments, providing legal opinions and interpretations on behalf of the City, and supervising the City Attorney's Office and outside counsel. He is also a Board Certified Attorney by the Florida Bar in City, County, and Local Government Law. He serves as a volunteer adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Law, where he has taught State and Local Government Law and Real Property and Government. In addition, Mr. Leen is an adjunct professor at the Florida International University College of Law, where he has taught Local Government, Evidence, and Legal Skills and Values III.

Prior to being City Attorney, Mr. Leen worked for the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office as an Assistant County Attorney, where he served as Chief of the Federal Litigation Section and previously as Chief of the Appeals Section. Mr. Leen also has worked in the private sector for such notable firms as Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP (Miami), Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP (Boston), and Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton LLP (N.Y.). Mr. Leen also served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Robert E. Keeton, United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Mr. Leen is also active in professional committees and associations, serving as an Executive Council Member of the City, County & Local Government Section of the Florida Bar, as a member of the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee for Florida and on the Steering Committee for the Florida Municipal Attorneys Association. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Columbia Law School in 2000 and a Bachelor of Arts degree, *cum laude*, from Georgetown University in 1997, where he double majored in Government and Economics, and completed the Honors Program for the Department of Government.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**RAQUEL REGALADO:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-067 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Mr. Craig E. Leen, City Attorney for Coral Gables.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-067  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
HONORING CRAIG E. LEEN**

**WHEREAS**, Craig E. Leen is the City Attorney for Coral Gables and an exemplary citizen who is a dedicated advocate for children with autism and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 68 children suffer from Autism in America today, totaling 3.5 million children in the nation as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, Craig E. Leen is responsible for creating the film "Embracing Autism: A Coral Gables Story", which highlights what the City of Coral Gables has done to recognize and alleviate the hardships and challenges facing the families of autistic children today; and

**WHEREAS**, Craig E. Leen was appointed to serve as the City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables in 2011. Mr. Leen is the chief legal officer and general counsel for the City, serving as counsel to the City Commission, City Officials, and City Departments, providing legal opinions and interpretations on behalf of the City, and supervising the City Attorney's Office and outside counsel; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Leen is Board Certified by the Florida Bar in City, County, and Local Government Law. He serves as a volunteer adjunct professor for the University of Miami School of Law, where he has taught State & Local Government Law and Real Property & Government. In addition, Mr. Leen is an adjunct professor at the Florida International University College of Law, where he has taught Local Government, Evidence, and Legal Skills and Values III; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to being City Attorney, Mr. Leen worked for the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office as an Assistant County Attorney, where he served as Chief of the Federal Litigation Section and previously as Chief of the Appeals Section. Mr. Leen also has worked in the private sector for such notable firms as Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP (Miami), Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP (Boston), and Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton LLP (N.Y.). Mr. Leen also served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Robert E. Keeton, United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Leen is active in professional committees and associations, serving as an Executive Council Member of the City, County & Local Government Section of the Florida Bar, as a member of the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee for Florida and on the Steering Committee for the Florida Municipal Attorneys Association; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Leen received his Juris Doctor degree from Columbia Law School in 2000 and a Bachelor of Arts degree, *cum laude*, from Georgetown University in 1997, where he double majored in Government and Economics, and completed the Honors Program for the Department of Government.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-067 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Mr. Craig E. Leen for his exemplary life, professionalism, and total commitment to advocating the cause of autism in our community, state, and nation.

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

**Presented this twenty-second day of June, A.D. 2016**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST BY:

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Secretary