

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-082 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MIAMI-DADE NAACP ACT-SO 2016 WINNERS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

The NAACP is the oldest, boldest and most respected civil rights organization since 1909. The Miami Dade NAACP Youth Council was established in 1982. Youth develop new leadership skills and participate in changing the concerns that affect themselves, their family and the community. This youth council is committed to addressing policy and legislation in the areas of education, voter registration, health, economic development, civic engagement, and juvenile justice. The Miami Dade NAACP Youth Council was awarded National Youth Council of the Year 2016 at the 107th National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Jayson Jackson, President of the Youth Council was awarded Gloster B Current Leadership Award for outstanding leadership and community service.

The NAACP ACT-SO was created to provide a vehicle for concerned adults to mobilize a total assault on negative community climate and to provide an alternative to those forces that spawn violence, defeatism, flimsy self-confidence, low self-esteem and, in certain instances, the glorification of ignorance.

Founded by Vernon Jarrett, ACT-SO was introduced in August 1977 at the Lord Baltimore Hotel during the national convention of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), prior to the address of Dr. Benjamin Hooks, incoming NAACP Executive Director. Dr. Hooks was so impressed with the idea that after brief contemplation he announced the NAACP's endorsement during his address before the NABJ. The following year, ACT-SO became a national program of the NAACP with the participation of 19 branches of the organization. Since then, ACT-SO has grown by word of mouth with more than 1,000 cities and small towns participating.

The actual creation of ACT-SO has its origins in a variety of memory sources based on the lives of many successful black leaders, educators, performers, ministers, and other successful professionals. The original goal of ACT-SO was to take inventory of human community resources and then the total mobilization of black adults who have gained a measure of stability from the civil rights victories of yesteryear. ACT-SO recruits adults and students who serve in various capacities, such as coaches, instructors, chaperones, and cheerleaders in the arena of academic promotion.

Every year, the NAACP recognizes outstanding youth through its ACT-SO competition. This year's winners include 2016 National winners in the Gold category Kebra-Seyoun Charles of New World School of the Arts with Instrument Classical and William Gordon of Miami Norland in Poetry Performance. Winners in the Silver category are Ezekiel Binns of DASH in Original Essay and David Baptiste of DASH in Sculpture and Bronze winners are Dylan Etienne of DASH in Drawing and Cornelius Tulloch of DASH in Architecture.

The Miami – Dade/ South Florida NAACP Act – So 2016 winners are Hanna Ali of North Miami Beach Senior in Photography (Gold), Drawing (Silver) and Painting (Bronze), Leia Ambrister of Miami Northwestern Senior in Vocal Contemporary (Bronze), David Baptiste of DASH in Photography (Gold)

and Sculpture (Gold), Ezekiel Binns of DASH in Architecture (Gold) and Original Essay (Gold), Kebra-Seyoun Charles of New World School of the Arts in Musical Instrumental Classical (Gold) and Musical Instrumental Contemporary (Gold), Taylor Dansby of Miami Central Senior in Vocal Contemporary (Bronze), Tracey Denis of Dr. Michael Krop Senior in Dance Contemporary (Gold), Dylan Etienne-Ramsay of DASH in Drawing (Gold) and Sculpture (Bronze), William Gordan of Miami Norland Senior in Poetry Written (Gold) and Poetry Performance (Gold), Christia Harris of Miami Jackson Senior in Drawing (Gold) and Sculpture (Bronze), Isaiah Littlejohn of DASH in Original Essay (Bronze), Mia Lockhart of DASH in Painting (Bronze), Sculpture (Gold) and Photography (Bronze), Jazmine Mays of New World School of the Arts in Dance Contemporary (Gold), Hansani Morey of Miami Northwestern Senior in Poetry Written (Bronze) and Poetry Performance (Silver), Joyce Marin of Miami Norland Senior in Poetry Written (Silver) and Poetry Performance (Bronze), Nadia Phanor of Miami Northwestern Senior in Vocal Contemporary (Silver), Alecsys Proctor Turner of Miami Killian Senior in Vocal Contemporary (Gold), Ethan Ramsay of Miami Killian Senior High in Poetry Written (Silver), Andrew Ruby of Miami Norland Senior High in Poetry Written (Silver) and Poetry Performance (Bronze), Vivianna Simons of North Miami Beach Senior High in Poetry Written (Silver) and Short Story (Gold), Christina Stephens of Robert Morgan Ed. Center in Painting (Bronze), Sherrod Taylor of Miami Northwestern Senior in Vocal Contemporary (Gold), Dija Thomas of Coral Reef Senior in Music Composition (Gold), Instrumental Classical (Gold) and Instrumental Contemporary (Silver), Dina Thomas of Coral Reef Senior in Instrumental Classical (Gold) and Instrumental Contemporary (Bronze), Qemari Thompson of Miami Lakes Ed. Center in Poetry Written (Silver), Cornelius Tullough of DASH in Architecture (Gold) and Sculpture (Silver), Adonis Valdez of Miami Norland Senior in Poetry Written (Silver) and Poetry Performance (Silver), Kori Wallace of Coral Reef Senior in Instrumental Contemporary (Gold), Kourtney Wallace of Coral Reef Senior in Original Essay (Gold) and Poetry Written (Gold), Asanma Weeks of DASH in Painting (Gold), Lauren Welch of New World School of the Arts in Poetry Performance (Bronze), Rahime West of Miami Norland Senior in Poetry Written (Silver) and Nadia Wolff of DASH in Poetry Performance (Gold) and Painting (Silver).

ACT-SO is viewed as the black community taking the initiative and reclaiming their children under the aegis of the NAACP which used the legal and court systems to ensure equal access to education. Local and national ACT-SO competitions serve to showcase the diverse talents and acumen of students which are developed through continuous year-round, weekly and monthly ACT-SO programs at grassroots neighborhood levels in churches, community centers, and local college campuses.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-082 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the NAACP ACT-SO.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-082
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE NAACP ACT-SO**

WHEREAS, the NAACP is the oldest, boldest and most respected civil rights organization since 1909. The Miami Dade NAACP Youth Council was established in 1982. Youth develop new leadership skills and participate in changing the concerns that affect themselves, their family and the community. This youth council is committed to addressing policy and legislation in the areas of education, voter registration, health, economic development, civic engagement, and juvenile justice. The Miami Dade NAACP Youth Council was awarded National Youth Council of the Year 2016 at the 107th National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Jayson Jackson, President of the Youth Council was awarded Gloster B Current Leadership Award for outstanding leadership and community service; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP ACT-SO was created to provide a vehicle for concerned adults to mobilize a total assault on negative community climate and to provide an alternative to those forces that spawn violence, defeatism, flimsy self-confidence, low self-esteem and, in certain instances, the glorification of ignorance; and

WHEREAS, the actual creation of ACT-SO has its origins in a variety of memory sources based on the lives of many successful black leaders, educators, performers, ministers, and other successful professionals. The original goal of ACT-SO was to take inventory of human community resources and then the total mobilization of black adults who have gained a measure of stability from the civil rights victories of yesteryear. ACT-SO recruits adults and students who serve in various capacities, such as coaches, instructors, chaperones, and cheerleaders in the arena of academic promotion; and

WHEREAS, ACT-SO is viewed as the black community taking the initiative and reclaiming their children under the aegis of the NAACP which used the legal and court systems to ensure equal access to education. Local and national ACT-SO competitions serve to showcase the diverse talents and acumen of students which are developed through continuous year-round, weekly and monthly ACT-SO programs at grassroots neighborhood levels in churches, community centers, and local college campuses; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP ACT-SO is to be commended for enriching the lives of youth across the nation while encouraging academic achievement and excellence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-082 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the NAACP ACT-SO.

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

Presented this tenth day of August, A.D. 2016

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary