

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM SEPTEMBER 15, THROUGH OCTOBER 15, 2016**

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

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

Each year, Americans across the nation observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15 as a way of recognizing the many contributions of Hispanic Americans to our history. During the month-long observance, Americans celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose forefathers came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

The observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week and later was expanded in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988. The date of September 15 was chosen as the starting date for the observance because it is the anniversary of the independence of five Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also celebrate their respective days of independence in September.

There are an estimated 55 million people of Hispanic origin in the United States, making Hispanics the nation's largest ethnic minority. Hispanics constitute 17 percent of the nation's total population. According to the U.S. Census, the projected Hispanic population of the U.S. in 2050 will be 132.8 million or 30 percent.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR  
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse Hispanic Heritage Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools from September 15 through October 15, 2016.