

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-091 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING “TOPICAL CURRENTS” CREATOR AND HOST JOSEPH COOPER AND CO-HOST BONNIE BERMAN FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO WLRN AND OUR COMMUNITY

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

WLRN’s popular afternoon radio show “Topical Currents” will end its 18-year run on September 28, as its creator and co-host Joseph Cooper retires from the South Florida NPR affiliate. The one-hour show, which debuted January 1999, airs at 1:00 p.m. four days a week. “Topical Currents” has featured local authors, chefs, media personalities and South Floridians discussing culture, the arts, and a variety of issues.

Joseph Cooper began his career at WLRN in 1974. Mr. Cooper served as WLRN Radio Program Manager, and instituted a 24-hour operating schedule. He was the founding producer and host of Florida Public Radio Legislative coverage in 1976. After Hurricane Andrew struck South Dade in 1992, Cooper hosted and produced the “Care Force Radio” program which took live calls from those directly impacted by the storm. He produced the first generation of pledge drives for Friends of WLRN, and three 13-week seasons of live jazz concerts. Cooper created the original WLRN program guide, wrote the initial grant to create the WLRN Radio Reading Service, and produced radio documentaries.

Bonnie Berman began as a volunteer reader at the WLRN Radio Reading Service in 1989. She voiced underwriting credits, station promotional announcements, and narrated a radio documentary about the homeless in South Florida. Berman worked for WLRN-TV, filled in as a local host on All Things Considered and Morning Edition where she later became the permanent local host. She conducted interviews for “Topical Currents” before joining the program as co-host and associate producer.

In July 2017, the program had an average weekly cumulative audience of 57,500 listeners in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach-Boca Raton radio markets, according to Nielsen Audio figures.

ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. MARTIN KARP:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-091 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing “Topical Currents” Creator and Host Joseph Cooper and Co-Host Bonnie Berman For Their Years of Service to WLRN and Our Community.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-091
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING “TOPICAL CURRENTS” CREATOR AND HOST JOSEPH COOPER AND
CO-HOST BONNIE BERMAN FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO WLRN AND OUR
COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, "Topical Currents" will end its 18-year run on September 28, as its creator and co-host Joseph Cooper retires from South Florida's National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate WLRN; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Cooper began his career at WLRN in 1974. Mr. Cooper served as WLRN Radio Program Manager, and instituted a 24-hour operating schedule. He was the founding producer and host of Florida Public Radio Legislative coverage in 1976; and

WHEREAS, after Hurricane Andrew struck South Dade in 1992, Cooper hosted and produced the "Care Force Radio" program which took live calls from those directly impacted by the storm. He produced the first generation of pledge drives for Friends of WLRN, and three 13-week seasons of live jazz concerts. Cooper created the original WLRN program guide, wrote the initial grant to create the WLRN Radio Reading Service, and produced radio documentaries; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie Berman began as a volunteer reader at the WLRN Radio Reading Service in 1989. She voiced underwriting credits, station promotional announcements, and narrated a radio documentary about the homeless in South Florida; and

WHEREAS, in September 2012, Bonnie Berman joined as co-host and associate producer on Topical Currents engaging listeners in discussions of current events, politics, food, history, books, and endless other topics; and

WHEREAS, in July 2017, the program had an average weekly cumulative audience of 57,500 listeners in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach-Boca Raton radio markets, according to Nielsen Audio figures; and

WHEREAS, the one-hour show, which debuted January 1999, airs at 1:00 p.m. four days a week. "Topical Currents" has featured local authors, chefs, media personalities and South Floridians discussing culture, the arts, and a variety of issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-091 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing "Topical Currents" Creator and Host Joseph Cooper and Co-Host Bonnie Berman For Their Years of Service to WLRN and Our Community.

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

Presented this sixth day of September, A.D. 2017

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary