

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-092 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING GLORIA AND EMILIO ESTEFAN**

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

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

Gloria and Emilio Estefan know the importance of giving back to the community and have never forgotten their Cuban roots. Married since 1978, their musical talents have not only catapulted their own careers, but have paved the way for other Latin superstar artists. In addition, the Estefans founded the Gloria Estefan Foundation aimed at reaching those who struggle outside the safeguards of society by promoting good health, education, and cultural development. The Foundation's mission is to support charitable programs for disadvantaged children and empower young people through education and opportunities.

Since taking the music industry by storm in 1985 with "Miami Sound Machine" to a successful transition as an international superstar, Gloria Estefan has sold more than 100 million records, won seven Grammy Awards, and was the first Latin female to be named "Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI's) Songwriter of the Year." Revered as the most successful crossover performer in Latin music history, she has also received countless achievements including the Oscar nominated song "Music of My Heart," a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, an American Music Award for Lifetime Achievement, an induction into the Latin Songwriters Hall of Fame, an Ellis Island Medal of Honor, a Humanitarian Award from St. Jude Hospital for Children, a National Artistic Achievement Award from the United States (U. S.) Congress, and a Presidential appointment as a public member of the U. S. delegation to the 47<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations, among many others.

Just recently, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced that Gloria Estefan will be one of the recipients of the 2017 Kennedy Center Honors which will be celebrated December 3, 2017, in Washington, D. C. Gloria's Kennedy Center Honors recognition for lifetime contributions to American culture through the performing arts is only the fourth time a Hispanic artist has received this award and she will be the first Cuban American to earn this distinction.

Following her own brush with paralysis, Gloria teamed up with the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. The organization is the world's largest, most comprehensive spinal cord injury research center. She served as the capital campaign director of the Miami Project's new building campaign that raised more than \$40 million dollars.

Emilio Estefan is a 19-time Grammy Award winning musician, songwriter, and producer. He was named "BMI's Songwriter of the Year," the first "Person of the Year" by the Latin Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, and was a leader in the creation of the Latin Grammy Awards. His extraordinary vision for business and talent transcends the music field and spills over into film, television, hotels, and restaurants among other endeavors.

Appointed by former President Barack Obama, Emilio sits as the second Vice Chair to the Commission for the National Museum of the American Latino, a bi-partisan commission charged with creating a National Latino Museum in Washington, D. C. Furthermore, former President George W. Bush appointed Emilio as a member of the President's Committee of the Arts and Humanities. He also received the "Sammy Cahn Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Songwriters Hall of Fame, was inducted into the Latin Songwriters Hall of Fame, and was appointed as a Special Ambassador for Miami-Dade County. Among other accolades, Emilio has received honorary doctorates from Barry University, The University of Miami, and Florida International University.

In 2015, former President Barack Obama honored both Emilio and Gloria Estefan with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the first time in history that this award was bestowed upon a couple. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the Nation's highest civilian honor and is presented to individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security and national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public and private endeavors.

*ON YOUR FEET!*, the Tony nominated Broadway musical based on the lives and music of Gloria and Emilio Estefan is coming home to Miami and will be playing at the Adrienne Arsht Center starting October 5, 2017. As Executive Producers, Gloria and Emilio have given the world the story of two people--who through an unwavering dedication to one another and their pursuit of the American dream--showcased their talent, their music, and their heritage to the world in a remarkable rise to global superstardom. Since opening, *ON YOUR FEET!* has received rave critical reviews and nominations for Tony Awards, Outer Critics Circle Awards, and Drama League Awards.

It is a great honor for Miami-Dade County Public Schools to recognize and honor what many consider to be Miami's music royalty, Gloria and Emilio Estefan.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No.17-092 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Gloria and Emilio Estefan.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-092  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING GLORIA AND EMILIO ESTEFAN**

**WHEREAS**, Gloria and Emilio Estefan know the importance of giving back to the community and their musical talents have not only catapulted their own careers, but have paved the way for other Latin superstar artists; and

**WHEREAS**, the Estefans founded the Gloria Estefan Foundation aimed at reaching those who struggle outside the safeguards of society by promoting good health, education, and cultural development for disadvantaged children. Additionally, Gloria served as the capital campaign director of the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis new building campaign that raised more than \$40 million dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, Gloria Estefan has sold more than 100 million records, won seven Grammy Awards, and was the first Latin female to be named "Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI's) Songwriter of the Year." Revered as the most successful crossover performer in Latin music history, she has also received countless achievements including the National Artistic Achievement Award from the United States (U. S.) Congress and a Presidential appointment as a public member of the U. S. delegation to the 47<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations, among many others; and

**WHEREAS**, Emilio Estefan is a 19-time Grammy Award winning musician, songwriter, and producer and his extraordinary vision for business and talent transcends the music field and spills over into film, television, hotels, and restaurants among other endeavors; and

**WHEREAS**, appointed by former President Barack Obama, Emilio sits as the second Vice Chair to the Commission for the National Museum of the American Latino, a bi-partisan commission charged with creating a National Latino Museum in Washington, D. C. Former President George W. Bush also appointed Emilio as a member of the President's Committee of the Arts and Humanities; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, former President Obama honored Emilio and Gloria Estefan with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the first time in history that this award was bestowed upon a couple. This award is presented to individuals who have made meritorious contributions to the security and national interests of the United States, to world peace, and to cultural or public and private endeavors; and

**WHEREAS**, as Executive Producers of the Tony nominated Broadway musical *ON YOUR FEET!*, Gloria and Emilio have given the world the story of two people--who through an unwavering dedication to one another and their pursuit of the American dream--showcased their talent, their music, and their heritage to the world in a remarkable rise to global superstardom.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-092 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Gloria and Emilio Estefan.

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

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary