

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-113 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC DEFENDER CARLOS J. MARTINEZ**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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

Carlos J. Martinez, the first Hispanic elected Public Defender in the United States, is Miami-Dade County's Public Defender. He was elected in 2008, and re-elected in 2012 and 2016. Mr. Martinez manages an office with a \$30 million budget, and 400 employees, handling approximately 75,000 cases each year.

Prior to law school, Mr. Martinez worked his way up from being a car wash attendant to managing multiple gas stations for Exxon Company USA. In the Public Defender's Office, Mr. Martinez represented thousands of clients before working as an administrator for more than two decades. He has instituted numerous programs to help troubled youth get on the right track. He has been active in addressing the crisis of minority children cycled from schools to prisons.

Mr. Martinez serves on the Florida Bar Special Committee on Child and Parent Representation, the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants, the National Association for Public Defense Steering Committee, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's Detention Risk Assessment Instrument Committee and is a member of the Institute for Innovation In Prosecution's Executive Session on Rethinking the Role of the Prosecutor in the Community. He served as Vice President of the Florida Public Defender Association, chaired The Florida Bar's Legal Needs of Children Committee, served on the Supreme Court of Florida Steering Committee on Drug Courts and the Steering Committee on Families and Children, and the Florida Blueprint Commission on Juvenile Justice.

Mr. Martinez has instituted numerous initiatives such as Juvenile Justice CPR (Charting a Path to Redemption), a legal reform initiative designed to help troubled kids achieve the American dream, the "Redemption Project" (helping ex-felons regain their civil and employment rights), "Play It Smart" (teaching young people how to interact with law enforcement), "Consequences Aren't Minor" (educating adolescents and adults about the direct and collateral consequences of illegal behavior and arrest), and the Equal Justice Roundtable (a faith community collaboration to address social injustice and improve public safety). Mr. Martinez helped lead the successful effort in Florida to ban indiscriminate shackling of children in juvenile court.

Mr. Martinez has served on technical assistance and training teams across the United States and Latin America, including the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (Dominican Republic, Chile and Mexico), the Honduran National Office of Public Defense, and the Public Defender Offices in Schenectady County (NY), San Bernardino County (CA), Maricopa County (Phoenix, AZ), and Marion County (Indianapolis, IN).

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-113 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Miami-Dade County Public Defender Carlos J. Martinez.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-113  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER CARLOS J. MARTINEZ**

**WHEREAS**, Carlos J. Martinez, the first Hispanic elected Public Defender in the US, is Miami-Dade County's Public Defender. He was elected in 2008, and re-elected in 2012 and 2016. Mr. Martinez manages an office with a \$30 million budget, and 400 employees, handling approximately 75,000 cases each year; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to law school, Mr. Martinez worked his way up from being a car wash attendant to managing multiple gas stations for Exxon Company USA. In the Public Defender's Office, Mr. Martinez represented thousands of clients before working as an administrator for more than two decades. He has instituted numerous programs to help troubled youth get on the right track. He has been active in addressing the crisis of minority children cycled from schools to prisons; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Martinez serves on the Florida Bar Special Committee on Child and Parent Representation, the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants, the National Association for Public Defense Steering Committee, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's Detention Risk Assessment Instrument Committee and is a member of the Institute for Innovation In Prosecution's Executive Session on Rethinking the Role of the Prosecutor in the Community. He served as Vice President of the Florida Public Defender Association, chaired The Florida Bar's Legal Needs of Children Committee, served on the Supreme Court of Florida Steering Committee on Drug Courts and the Steering Committee on Families and Children, and the Florida Blueprint Commission on Juvenile Justice; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Martinez has instituted numerous initiatives such as Juvenile Justice CPR (Charting a Path to Redemption), a legal reform initiative designed to help troubled kids achieve the American dream, the "Redemption Project" (helping ex-felons regain their civil and employment rights), "Play It Smart" (teaching young people how to interact with law enforcement), "Consequences Aren't Minor" (educating adolescents and adults about the direct and collateral consequences of illegal behavior and arrest), and the Equal Justice Roundtable (a faith community collaboration to address social injustice and improve public safety). Mr. Martinez helped lead the successful effort in Florida to ban indiscriminate shackling of children in juvenile court; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Martinez has served on technical assistance and training teams across the United States and Latin America, including the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (Dominican Republic, Chile and Mexico), the Honduran National Office of Public Defense, and the Public Defender Offices in Schenectady County (NY), San Bernardino County (CA), Maricopa County (Phoenix, AZ), and Marion County (Indianapolis, IN).

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-113 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Carlos J. Martinez.

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

**Presented this sixth day of December, A.D. 2017**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary