

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-018 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE DEAN OF ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY,
SCHOOL OF LAW TAMARA F. LAWSON**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATIONS, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

Tamara F. Lawson J.D. joined the St. Thomas Law faculty in 2004, is the first African American woman to serve as Dean of St. Thomas University School of Law and throughout her tenure at St. Thomas University Tamara F. Lawson J.D. has proven to be a stellar leader, teacher, scholar, and ambassador for the community.

Tamara F. Lawson J.D served as the law school's Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs she has been a key member of the university's academic community, as well as an insightful and experienced voice among her colleagues. As a member of the law school faculty, Dean Lawson taught Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and a seminar on Race and the Law. She was also twice named the Professor of the Year. She has co-authored two casebooks, and has had her articles published in prestigious law journals such as the American Journal of Criminal Law, the Iowa Law Review, and the Columbia Journal of Gender and Law.

Under Dean Lawson leadership, St. Thomas Law reformed its first-year curriculum as well as launched a comprehensive, three-year Academic Success Program designed to ensure that all students develop the skills necessary to excel in law school, the bar exam, and in the practice of law. Dean Lawson created the Deans of Color Retreat; an annual event for law school Deans and Program Directors designed to promote diversity and foster the professional development of minority law school administrators.

Dean Lawson is also a highly sought-after speaker on issues of race, policing, and the law, and was tasked by the American Bar Association to be the Reporter for its National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-018 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dean Tamara Lawson of St. Thomas University, School of Law.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-018 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE DEAN OF ST. THOMAS
UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF LAW TAMARA F. LAWSON**

WHEREAS Tamara F. Lawson J.D. joined the St. Thomas Law faculty in 2004, is the first African American woman to serve as Dean of the at St. Thomas University Law School; and

WHEREAS throughout her tenure at St. Thomas University Tamara F. Lawson J.D. has proven to be a stellar leader, teacher, scholar, and ambassador for the community; and

WHEREAS Tamara F. Lawson J.D served as the law school's Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs she has been a key member of the university's academic community, as well as an insightful and experienced voice among her colleagues; and

WHEREAS As a member of the law school faculty, Dean Lawson taught Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and a seminar on Race and the Law. She was also twice named the Professor of the Year. She has co-authored two casebooks, and has had her articles published in prestigious law journals such as the American Journal of Criminal Law, the Iowa Law Review, and the Columbia Journal of Gender and Law; and

WHEREAS Under Dean Lawson leadership, St. Thomas Law reformed its first-year curriculum as well as launched a comprehensive, three-year Academic Success Program designed to ensure that all students develop the skills necessary to excel in law school, the bar exam, and in the practice of law; and

WHEREAS Dean Lawson created the Deans of Color Retreat; an annual event for law school Deans and Program Directors designed to promote diversity and foster the professional development of minority law school administrators; and

WHEREAS Dean Lawson is also a highly sought-after speaker on issues of race, policing, and the law, and was tasked by the American Bar Association to be the Reporter for its National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-018 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Dean Tamara F. Lawson dedication, commitment legal education and leadership the South Florida community.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of March, A.D. 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary