

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-044 OF THE
 SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
 RECOGNIZING DO THE RIGHT THING**

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The purpose of Do The Right Thing of Miami, Inc. (DTRT) is to recognize and reward Miami youths for their exemplary behavior, accomplishments, and good deeds through a unique partnership with the City of Miami Police Department and other participating law enforcement agencies in Miami-Dade. Initiated in 1990 by the City of Miami Police Department, the DTRT Awards and Program distinguishes exceptional school-age children who choose to be drug and crime free, exhibit non-violent behavior, do well in school, make a difference in their communities, and demonstrate turnaround behavior. Each month of the school year, parents, police officers, teachers, and other adults nominate students for “doing the right thing.” A selection committee reviews the nominations and selects ten finalists for the month who are honored at a ceremony at police headquarters in downtown Miami. Since its inception, over 270,000 students have been recognized and rewarded. DTRT’s success has been replicated in 63 national chapters and 4 international chapters, all patterned after the Miami program.

Building upon the success of the program, DTRT launched a new initiative in 2016 known as ‘Officer Do Right’ in order to increase positive encounters between police officers and our youth. Each month in select Miami-Dade County Public Schools, officers bring McDonald’s Happy Meal lunches, eat with the program nominees, and award their prizes for doing the right thing. To date, the initiative has impacted over 10,000 students who received one-on-one interaction with local law enforcement.

For the past 20 years, DTRT has hosted its annual Summer Salute Awards Night, an end of the school year celebration which honors select winners, sponsors, and volunteers. The program announced the following honorees for the 2018-2019 school year:

Students of the Year

Jermain Kelson, Colonial Drive Elementary
Emily Celestrin and Dylan Garcia from Hialeah Gardens Middle
Litz Gutierrez and William Tejeda from American Senior High

Nominator and Coordinator of the Year

Glenn Steinberg, Colonial Drive Elementary

Schools of the Year

Colonial Drive Elementary, Hialeah Gardens Middle, and South Dade Senior High

**Replacement
B-3**

DTRT's success is due, in no small part, to Executive Director Jodi Atkinson, who has dedicated 20 years of service to the program. Through her tireless efforts, she has increased the number of participating schools and students. Alongside the Summer Salute Awards and Officer Do Right

Lunch Program, she has spearheaded initiatives such as the Back Without A Bang Youth Violence event and the Angel Calzadilla Police Memorial Scholarship for one high school senior per year to attend the Miami Police Academy.

The DTRT Program, City of Miami Police Department and Ms. Jodi Atkinson are to be recognized for seeking opportunities to reward and recognize students for positive behavior, accomplishments and good deeds.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 19-044 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Do The Right Thing.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-044
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING DO THE RIGHT THING OF MIAMI, INC.**

WHEREAS, the purpose of Do The Right Thing of Miami, Inc. (DTRT) is to recognize and reward Miami youths for their exemplary behavior, accomplishments, and good deeds through a unique partnership with the City of Miami Police Department and other participating law enforcement agencies in Miami-Dade. Initiated in 1990 by the City of Miami Police Department, the DTRT Awards and Program distinguishes exceptional school-age children who choose to be drug and crime free, exhibit non-violent behavior, do well in school, make a difference in their communities, and demonstrate turnaround behavior; and

WHEREAS, a selection committee reviews the nominations and selects ten finalists for the month who are honored at a ceremony at police headquarters in downtown Miami. Since its inception, over 270,000 students have been recognized and rewarded. DTRT's success has been replicated in 63 national chapters and 4 international chapters, all patterned after the Miami program; and

WHEREAS, for the past 20 years, DTRT has hosted its annual Summer Salute Awards Night, an end of the school year celebration which honors select winners, sponsors, and volunteers. The 2018-2019 winners include in the category of students of the year, Jermain Kelson, Colonial Drive Elementary, Emily Celestrin and Dylan Garcia from Hialeah Gardens Middle, and Litz Gutierrez and William Tejada from American Senior High; in the nominator and coordinator of the year category, Ms. Glenn Steinberg from Colonial Drive Elementary was recognized; and the schools of the year were Colonial Drive Elementary, Hialeah Gardens Middle, and South Dade Senior High; and

WHEREAS, Executive Director Jodi Atkinson has dedicated 20 years of service to the program. Through her tireless efforts, she has increased the number of participating schools and students. Alongside the Summer Salute Awards and Officer Do Right Lunch Program, she has spearheaded initiatives such as the Back Without A Bang Youth Violence event and the Angel Calzadilla Police Memorial Scholarship for one high school senior per year to attend the Miami Police Academy; and

WHEREAS, the DTRT program, City of Miami Police Department and Ms. Jodi Atkinson are to be recognized for seeking opportunities to reward and recognize students for positive behavior, accomplishments and good deeds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-044 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Do The Right Thing of Miami, Inc.

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

Presented this twenty-fourth day of July, A.D. 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary