

Dr. Marta Pérez, School Board Member

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER RAQUEL A. REGALADO FOR HER COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO BE A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Raquel Regalado was elected to the Miami-Dade County Commission on November 3, 2020 and to the Miami-Dade School Board in 2010. Her career reflects commitment to the people and issues of Miami-Dade.

As a community leader, she is known for her advocacy for disabled children and adults, housing, seniors, fixing school facilities and transportation.

Ms. Regalado's first foray into elected office was inspired by her two children, Isabella and Sebastian-- both on the autism spectrum. In her 6 years on our School Board, she championed services for special needs individuals, technology needs, bond programs to update and build public schools, legal, state financial, social media, and many other initiatives.

Most recently, she received the unanimous support of her colleagues for the county to develop a comprehensive program in our parks, libraries, transit, fire department, and police department helping teens and adults with autism to safely navigate our public spaces and interact with first responders and County staff. The county will partner with the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD), and together they are making Miami-Dade a national model for inclusion.

Ms. Regalado is a patent attorney and an excellent litigator.

Since 2008, Ms. Regalado hosts several radio and television programs in Spanish that focus on informing listeners about local politics, public housing, immigration and social services. These include a daily program on La Poderosa 670 AM, from 2008 to 2018, and Esta Semana con Raquel, a weekly television show that aired throughout Florida from 2008 to 2017. Currently, Ms. Regalado co-hosts Hoy por Hoy on Radio Caracol 1260 AM and contributes editorials for Community Newspapers and El Diario de la Américas.

For her impact and dedication to our community, and the children of Miami-Dade we are grateful and today present this recognition with our thanks and admiration.

Ms. Regalado is an advocate for mental health for Florida children and the restructuring of Kid Care to provide more services. She has also been an advocate for homeless families and women as a board member of the Chapman Partnership and working with victims of domestic violence at Lotus House.

Ms. Regalado helped devise the Seven50 plan to secure the economic future of seven counties as a member of the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership Executive Committee. She also served as an executive board member of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) from 2010 to 2016, tackling issues from juvenile justice reform, civil citation alternatives to deportation protection for Dreamers, and bilingual education.

Raquel Regalado is the proud mother of two teenagers, Isabela and Sebastian. She is the daughter of former City of Miami Mayor and former Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, Tomas P. Regalado. She earned a Juris Doctorate degree from St. Thomas University School of Law, a B.A. from Florida International University, and attended Miami-Dade Community College Honors and Coral Gables Senior High.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize Ms. Raquel Regalado for her commitment to public service and a sense of responsibility to be a voice for the voiceless.