

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Mary Blanco }
Dr. Steve Gallon, III } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-008 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING WILBUR BELL, LUCIA DAVIS-RAIFORD, MARVIN DUNN, NADEGE GREEN, AND COMMISSIONER KIONNE MCGHEE.

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

South Florida has a rich history of Black leaders who have made significant contributions to the community and beyond. From journalists to politicians and civil rights activists to business leaders, these individuals have fought for equality and justice, and have left a lasting impact on the region. During Black History Month, we wish to honor the work they have done and continue to do for our students at Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Their achievements inspire all of us and future generations to continue the fight for progress and justice and their work makes all of our community stronger.

Wilbur Bell is a community mobilizer in the Perrine neighborhood in South Dade. Mr. Bell has made it his life mission to give back to his community, from serving in the Air Force to being an engaged citizen in Perrine. In 1969, Mr. Bell opened Bell's Short Stop convenience store in West Perrine, which became one of the community's landmarks as it provided local residents with employment, convenient access to household needs, and notary services. This was only the start as Mr. Bell went on to become a philanthropist and serve his community through service. He was one of the founding members of the Economic Development Council of South Miami-Dade, which is dedicated to the creation and retention of well-paying jobs that offer a healthy work-life balance for South Miami-Dade residents.

Lucia Davis-Raiford is a champion of human rights. As President & CEO of the Carrie Meek Foundation, she strives to continue advancing her mother's, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, vision for civically engaged, well-resourced and resilient communities. Under her guidance, the Carrie Meek Foundation provides opportunities to all people in Miami-Dade County through access to education, health care, safe and affordable housing, and economic prosperity. Most recently, the Foundation awarded 22 grassroots projects with a Meek Mobilize Grant to support grassroots initiatives in Opa-Locka, Liberty City, and Florida City. Beyond her work at the foundation, Ms. Davis-Raiford advocates for women's rights and encourages philanthropy in the Black community. She has served as the chair of the Miami-Dade County Domestic Violence Oversight Board, volunteered on the board of The Women's Fund Miami-Dade, and has worked with a host of local and national organizations.

Dr. Marvin Dunn is a nationally respected scholar, author, historian, documentary filmmaker, and community activist. His lifelong work has been dedicated to bringing an empowering perspective to Black history in Florida, especially in Miami-Dade, that has been missed, distorted, and minimized in the past. He is professor emeritus and retired chairperson of the Department of Psychology at Florida International University. Dr. Dunn is a renowned expert on race and ethnic issues in America. Most recently, Dr. Dunn founded the Miami Center For Racial Justice in 2020, where he now serves as the non-profit's president. The Miami Center for Racial Justice's purpose is to tell and preserve the true Black history of Florida, especially those stories that are difficult to hear.

Nadege Green is a powerful writer, independent researcher, and community historian born and raised in Miami. A child of Haitian immigrants and former farmworkers, she is the founder of Black Miami-Dade, a history and storytelling platform that resists the erasure of Miami's Black past. Her practice and approach to storytelling is deeply rooted in history and first-person narratives that explore and connect issues around race, culture, climate justice, and displacement. She is the editor of the newly released book "More Than What Happened: The Aftermath of Gun Violence in Miami"—a community anthology of essays, poems, prose and photo essays by Miami youth and adults who have been impacted by gun violence and threats of gun violence. She amplifies the voices of the Black community in Miami-Dade, giving our students the opportunity to see themselves as part of the narrative.

Commissioner Kionne McGhee is a visionary leader in our South Dade community. He grew up in South Dade public housing and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Howard University and a Juris Doctorate from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. First elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2012, he went on to become our Miami-Dade County Commissioner for District 9. Commissioner McGhee continues to be a strong advocate for South Dade communities, where he recently sponsored an item for the county to pledge nearly \$9 million to support communities that have been disproportionately experiencing gun violence, as well as addressing food insecurity, boost educational opportunities, and fund adult career training. Most recently, Commissioner McGhee was selected to lead the National Association of Black County Officials, representing Black officials throughout more than 3,000 counties across the United States.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. LUISA SANTOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-008 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Wilbur Bell, Lucia Davis-Raiford, Dr. Marvin Dunn, Nadege Green, and Commissioner Kionne McGhee.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-008 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING WILBUR BELL, LUCIA DAVIS-RAIFORD, DR. MARVIN DUNN, NADEGE GREEN, AND COMMISSIONER KIONNE MCGHEE.

WHEREAS, South Florida has a rich history of Black leaders who have made significant contributions to the community and beyond. From journalists to politicians and civil rights activists to business leaders, these individuals have fought for equality and justice, and have left a lasting impact on the region. During Black History Month, we wish to honor the work they have done and continue to do for our students at Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Their achievements inspire all of us and future generations to continue the fight for progress and justice and their work makes all of our community stronger; and

WHEREAS, Wilbur Bell is a community mobilizer in the Perrine neighborhood in South Dade. Mr. Bell has made it his life mission to give back to his community, from serving in the Air Force to being an engaged citizen in Perrine. In 1969, Mr. Bell opened Bell's Short Stop convenience store in West Perrine, which became one of the community's landmarks as it provided local residents with employment, convenient access to household needs, and notary services. This was only the start as Mr. Bell went on to become a philanthropist and serve his community through service. He was one of the founding members of the Economic Development Council of South Miami-Dade, which is dedicated to the creation and retention of well-paying jobs that offer a healthy work-life balance for South Miami-Dade residents; and

WHEREAS, Lucia Davis-Raiford is a champion of human rights. As President & CEO of the Carrie Meek Foundation, she strives to continue advancing her mother's, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, vision for civically engaged, well-resourced and resilient communities. Under her guidance, the Carrie Meek Foundation provides opportunities to all people in Miami-Dade County through access to education, health care, safe and affordable housing, and economic prosperity. Most recently, the Foundation awarded 22 grassroots projects with a Meek Mobilize Grant to support grassroots initiatives in Opa-locka, Liberty City, and Florida City. Beyond her work at the foundation, Ms. Davis-Raiford advocates for women's rights and encourages philanthropy in the Black community. She has served as the chair of the Miami-Dade County Domestic Violence Oversight Board, volunteered on the board of The Women's Fund Miami-Dade, and has worked with a host of local and national organizations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marvin Dunn is a nationally respected scholar, author, historian, documentary filmmaker, and community activist. His lifelong work has been dedicated to bringing an empowering perspective to Black history in Florida, especially in Miami-Dade, that has been missed, distorted, and minimized in the past. He is professor emeritus and retired chairperson of the Department of Psychology at Florida International University. Dr. Dunn is a renowned expert on race and ethnic issues in America. Most recently, Dr. Dunn founded the Miami Center For Racial Justice in 2020, where he now serves as the non-profit's president. The Miami Center for Racial Justice's purpose is to tell and preserve the true Black history of Florida, especially those stories that are difficult to hear; and

WHEREAS, Nadege Green is a powerful writer, independent researcher, and community historian born and raised in Miami. A child of Haitian immigrants and former farmworkers, she is the founder of Black Miami-Dade, a history and storytelling platform that resists the erasure of Miami's Black past. Her practice and approach to storytelling is deeply rooted in history and first-person narratives that explore and connect issues around race, culture, climate justice, and displacement. She is the editor of the newly released book "More Than What Happened: The Aftermath of Gun Violence in Miami"—a community anthology of essays, poems, prose and photo essays by Miami youth and adults who have been impacted by gun violence and threats of gun violence. She amplifies the voices of the Black community in Miami-Dade, giving our students the opportunity to see themselves as part of the narrative; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Kionne McGhee is a visionary leader in our South Dade community. He grew up in South Dade public housing and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Howard University and a Juris Doctorate from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. First elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2012, he went on to become our Miami-Dade County Commissioner for District 9. Commissioner McGhee continues to be a strong advocate for South Dade communities, where he recently sponsored an item for the county to pledge nearly \$9 million to support communities that have been disproportionately experiencing gun violence, as well as addressing food insecurity, boost educational opportunities, and fund adult career training. Most recently, Commissioner McGhee was selected to lead the National Association of Black County Officials, representing Black officials throughout more than 3,000 counties across the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-008 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Wilbur Bell, Lucia Davis-Raiford, Dr. Marvin Dunn, Nadege Green, and Commissioner Kionne McGhee.

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

Presented this fifteenth day of February A.D. 2023

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary