

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-007 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MIAMI DADE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT AND CEO GORDON ERIC KNOWLES FOR HIS REMARKABLE PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Gordon Eric Knowles has served as President and CEO of the Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce since May 2014. Mr. Knowles has an extensive career in the public and private sectors. He served as Business Developer for the Coconut Grove Local Development Corporation where he helped small businesses in Coconut Grove and supported the development of affordable housing in the area. In 1997, President Knowles became the Director of Community Relations and Government Affairs for the now Hard Rock Stadium. In 1999, he was recruited by American Airlines as its Marketing Director for the Caribbean. In the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001, and subsequent crisis in the aviation industry, President Knowles returned to work for the Hard Rock Stadium. In 2003, he participated in his second World Series Championship with the then Florida Marlins.

President Knowles has been actively involved in the Miami Dade and Broward communities through his work as the Dolphins' Senior Director of Guest Services, Senior Director of Operations, and Senior Director of Government and Community Relations. Gordon Eric Knowles has served for the past 10 years as the fourth President and CEO of the Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce. Under President Knowles' leadership, the Chamber has increased its annual revenue from \$600K to over \$1M and its membership has grown from 250 members to over 400 members. The Chamber's future is bright.

Gordon Eric Knowles was born in Fort Pierce, Florida. From the age of eight months old to six years old, he was raised by his paternal grandmother in Nassau, Bahamas. Following the conclusion of his father's service in the United States Army, young Eric moved to the snow belt of the North, living in the small town of Lockport, 29 miles north of Buffalo, New York. Demonstrating leadership from a very young age, he participated in the Boy Scouts, becoming troop leader. He is a veteran of the United States Army, joining the 82nd Airborne Division at the age of 17. He received a perfect score for the physical training test during basic training and was named the Trainee of the Cycle. Upon honorable discharge from the Army, President Knowles returned to Miami where he attended Miami Dade Community College North. He went on to graduate from Florida International University with a degree in Apparel Management in 1982.

President Knowles recently announced his bid to become the next Florida State Representative for District 107. A member of several non-profits and a member of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Miami Gardens, President Knowles is the proud father of Erica, Catherine, and grandfather to Munzang 'Alu' who resides in Cape Town South Africa with his mother Erica.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-007 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Miami Dade County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Gordon Eric Knowles for his remarkable professional career and dedication to the Miami-Dade County Community.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-007 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MIAMI DADE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT AND CEO GORDON ERIC KNOWLES FOR HIS REMARKABLE PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND DEDICATION TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, Gordon Eric Knowles has served as President and CEO of the Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce since May 2014. Mr. Knowles has an extensive career in the public and private sectors. He served as Business Developer for the Coconut Grove Local Development Corporation where he helped small businesses in Coconut Grove and supported the development of affordable housing in the area. In 1997, President Knowles became the Director of Community Relations and Government Affairs for the now Hard Rock Stadium. In 1999, he was recruited by American Airlines as its Marketing Director for the Caribbean. In the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001, and subsequent crisis in the aviation industry, President Knowles returned to work for the Hard Rock Stadium. In 2003, he participated in his second World Series Championship with the then Florida Marlins; and

WHEREAS, president Knowles has been actively involved in the Miami Dade and Broward communities through his work as the Dolphins' Senior Director of Guest Services, Senior Director of Operations, and Senior Director of Government and Community Relations. Gordon Eric Knowles has served for the past 10 years as the fourth President and CEO of the Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce. Under President Knowles' leadership, the Chamber has increased its annual revenue from \$600K to over \$1M and its membership has grown from 250 members to over 400 members. The Chamber's future is bright; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Eric Knowles was born in Fort Pierce, Florida. From the age of eight months old to six years old, he was raised by his paternal grandmother in Nassau, Bahamas. Following the conclusion of his father's service in the United States Army, young Eric moved to the snow belt of the North, living in the small town of Lockport, 29 miles north of Buffalo, New York. Demonstrating leadership from a very young age, he participated in the Boy Scouts, becoming troop leader. He is a veteran of the United States Army, joining the 82nd Airborne Division at the age of 17. He received a perfect score for the physical training test during basic training and was named the Trainee of the Cycle. Upon honorable discharge from the Army, President Knowles returned to Miami where he attended Miami Dade Community College North. He went on to graduate from Florida International University with a degree in Apparel Management in 1982; and

WHEREAS, president Knowles recently announced his bid to become the next Florida State Representative for District 107. A member of several non-profits and a member of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Miami Gardens, President Knowles is the proud father of Erica, Catherine, and grandfather to Munzang 'Alu' who resides in Cape Town South Africa with his mother Erica;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-006 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Miami Dade County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Gordon Eric Knowles for his remarkable professional contributions and dedication to the Miami-Dade County Community.

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

Presented this seventeenth day of January, A.D. 2024

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary