

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-014 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING PASTOR LORENZO JOHNSON, SR.

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Lorenzo G. Johnson, Sr. unknowingly became a trailblazer at an incredibly young age. On September 6, 1961, The Miami Herald Publishing Company ran a story showing nine-year-old Lorenzo, accompanied by his mother and sister, as one of the first black students to walk up the steps of Earlington Heights Elementary School, commemorating the first day of the school's racial integration. This was the beginning of Lorenzo's passion for social justice.

After graduating from Iowa State University, Mr. Johnson's career path was to become an NFL pro football player. He signed to play with the New York Jets and New Orleans Saints. Nonetheless, his career path took a different turn, and his experience in football became the catalyst for Mr. Johnson to focus his efforts on making a difference in the lives of our future generation – the youth. Driven, ambitious, and passionate, Mr. Johnson decided to create athletic and social programs for misguided youth. Part of this work includes the establishment of the Little League Football clubs in Miami-Dade County.

A man of faith, in 2007, Lorenzo G. Johnson, Sr. answered the spiritual call and became a licensed and ordained Minister on May 22, 2011. His ministry helped expand his vision to help the least, lost and left out. He continued his passion by galvanizing other pastors, churches, and organizations that shared his vision to make our neighborhoods a safer place to reside and raise families. With this goal in mind, Pastor Lorenzo Johnson Sr. founded the Community Youth Against Violence (CYAV) with a vision to return our South Florida Black neighborhoods back to a place where children can venture outside and play with their friends, and seniors can relax on their front porch without the fear of gunshots and senseless deaths of innocent people. One of the most important strategies implemented by the group is to change people's mindset, especially the mindset of our youth.

The Community Youth Against Violence offers outreach services to youth and families designed to provide tools and resources to mend broken families and connect them with support to address their emotional, physical, and mental needs. Not afraid to confront issues, Pastor Johnson also brought social awareness to neighborhoods, from South Miami to the North Dade County line, organizing various peace walks with youth and other concerned citizens. He serves as the voice of many when there is an injustice or another homicide that snatches the life from an innocent person, especially a youth. Among the most successful models implemented by the CYAV are the bi-weekly Zoom Training Workshops. These workshops are attended by students, parents, educators, county and city officials, and anyone with an interest in changing behaviors

**REPLACEMENT
B-9**

to produce positive outcomes. Currently, more than 1,300 people have attended these workshops, which have received great reviews.

For over 40 years, Pastor Lorenzo G. Johnson has worked with the youth to help them make sound decisions that lead to a successful life. With the same commitment of his early days, he remains vigilant and determined to make a positive impact in our communities.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-014 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Pastor Lorenzo Johnson Sr. for his remarkable professional career and dedication to the Miami-Dade County Community.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-014 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING PASTOR LORENZO G. JOHNSON FOR HIS REMARKABLE PROFESSIONAL
CAREER AND DEDICATION TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, Lorenzo G. Johnson, Sr. unknowingly became a trailblazer at an incredibly young age. On September 6, 1961, The Miami Herald Publishing Company ran a story showing nine-year-old Lorenzo, accompanied by his mother and sister, as one of the first black students to walk up the steps of Earlington Heights Elementary School, commemorating the first day of the school's racial integration. This was the beginning of Lorenzo's passion for social justice; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Iowa State University, Mr. Johnson's career path was to become an NFL pro football player. He signed to play with the New York Jets and New Orleans Saints. Nonetheless, his career path took a different turn, and his experience in football became the catalyst for Mr. Johnson to focus his efforts on making a difference in the lives of our future generation – the youth. Driven, ambitious, and passionate, Mr. Johnson decided to create athletic and social programs for misguided youth. Part of this work includes the establishment of the Little League Football clubs in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, a man of faith, in 2007, Lorenzo G. Johnson, Sr. answered the spiritual call and became a licensed and ordained Minister on May 22, 2011. His ministry helped expand his vision to help the least, lost and left out. He continued his passion by galvanizing other pastors, churches, and organizations that shared his vision to make our neighborhoods a safer place to reside and raise families. With this goal in mind, Pastor Lorenzo Johnson Sr. founded the Community Youth Against Violence (CYAV) with a vision to return our South Florida Black neighborhoods back to a place where children can venture outside and play with their friends, and seniors can relax on their front porch without the fear of gunshots and senseless deaths of innocent people. One of the most important strategies implemented by the group is to change people's mindset, especially the mindset of our youth; and

WHEREAS, the Community Youth Against Violence offers outreach services to youth and families designed to provide tools and resources to mend broken families and connect them with support to address their emotional, physical, and mental needs. Not afraid to confront issues, Pastor Johnson also brought social awareness to neighborhoods, from South Miami to the North Dade County line, organizing various peace walks with youth and other concerned citizens. He serves as the voice of many when there is an injustice or another homicide that snatches the life from an innocent person, especially a youth. Among the most successful models implemented by the CYAV are the bi-weekly Zoom Training Workshops. These workshops are attended by students, parents, educators, county and city officials, and anyone with an interest in changing behaviors to produce positive outcomes. Currently, more than 1,300 people have attended these workshops, which have received great reviews; and

WHEREAS, for over 40 years, Pastor Lorenzo G. Johnson has worked with the youth to help them make sound decisions that lead to a successful life. With the same commitment of his early days, he remains vigilant and determined to make a positive impact in our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-014 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Pastor Lorenzo G. Johnson Sr. for his remarkable professional career and dedication to the Miami-Dade County Community.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of February, A.D. 2024

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary