

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZES THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024, AS NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

During times of prosperity and adversity, many Americans find solace in prayer. It serves as a means of seeking guidance, strengthening faith, and uplifting our spirits in times of need. Prayer is a personal and communal practice, reflecting the intimate thoughts of individuals while being observed by diverse groups across our nation, spanning various languages, cultures, religions, and belief systems. The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, with this year's event falling on Thursday, May 2, 2024. It is when people of all faiths across the United States are called upon to pray for the nation and its leaders.

The tradition of the National Day of Prayer dates to June 17, 1952, when President Harry Truman signed a Joint Resolution of Congress, officially establishing the day of observance. In 1972, the National Prayer Committee was formed in the United States to oversee the coordination of events for the National Day of Prayer. Subsequently, the National Day of Prayer Task Force was created with the specific aim of organizing activities for this significant occasion. According to the Legal Information Institute, it is customary for the President to issue a proclamation each year, officially recognizing the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer. This proclamation encourages people throughout the country to engage in prayer and meditation, whether in houses of worship, group settings, or as individuals. In 1981, President Ronald W. Reagan approved an amendment designating the first Thursday of May each year as the National Day of Prayer.

This board item seeks the Board's approval to recognize Thursday, May 2, 2024, as the National Day of Prayer in accordance with applicable School Board policies and state and federal laws.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. DANNY ESPINO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizes Thursday, May 2, 2024, as the National Day of Prayer and directs the Superintendent to inform all schools and District staff to respect students and staff's recognition of the National Day of Prayer in accordance with applicable School Board Policies 8800 – Religious Ceremonies/Observances and Moment of Quiet Reflection, and School Board Policy 8805 – Religious Expression, State and Federal law.