

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair
Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Ms. Mary Blanco
Mr. Daniel Espino
Dr. Steve Gallon, III
Ms. Luisa Santos

REVISED
AT DAIS
BY
BOARD
ACTION

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-008 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALIST (NABJ)

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Founded in 1975, the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) is the largest coalition of Black journalists in the world, with over 4,000 members. NABJ - South Florida, originally established in the early 1980s as the South Florida Association of Black Journalists, is a proud chapter member of NABJ. NABJ – South Florida is made up of a dedicated group of professionals who embody honed journalistic skills, uphold the highest industry standards, and advocate for fair and unbiased coverage of African Americans and Africans in the Diaspora. This legacy draw inspiration from trailblazing journalists such as Frederick Douglass, founder of *The North Star*; Ida B. Wells, co-founder of the NAACP; Lerone Bennett, of *EBONY* and *JET* magazines; Max Robinson, the first Black anchor on a major network (ABC); and countless others who fought tirelessly to ensure that Black voices were heard in newsrooms and the community was accurately represented.

As a bridge between the community and the media, NABJ – South Florida plays a vital role in advocating for greater access to the media while promoting understanding and sensitivity within newsrooms and media-related workspaces. The chapter is dedicated to fostering continuous growth, offering workshops and seminars that help enhance the skills of its members while creating pathways for journalists of color to enter and excel in the industry. Since its inception, NABJ - South Florida has mentored students in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. In recent years, the chapter adopted Miami Central Senior High School, working with students to develop their communication skills, revitalize the school's communications program, provide scholarships, and offer mentorship.

In today's age of rampant misinformation, NABJ - South Florida's work is more crucial than ever. With truth often questioned, it is essential to support and empower the next generation of truth seekers. The chapter has long partnered with Florida International University (FIU) to provide scholarships and continues to mentor students through the University of Miami's High School Journalism Workshop, and Florida Memorial University's Career Day.

In addition to supporting its members and advocating for increased representation of Black professionals at all levels of media, NABJ - South Florida aligns with the national organization's goals of improving the image of Black men in society. The chapter is working to attract more

REVISED REPLACEMENT

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men of color into the media industry and elevate Black excellence through initiatives like the Black Male Media Project. In collaboration with Barbershop Speaks, the chapter sponsors the Fatherhood Enrichment Initiative, a program that fosters stronger father-child relationships through barbershop dialogues in an effort to rebuild trust and deepen connections within the community. This initiative includes free haircuts and complimentary breakfasts. NABJ - South Florida also gives back to the community through holiday meals, gifts, volunteering and partnering with organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Hollywood, and Life Net 4 Families, among others.

Past presidents of NABJ - South Florida include distinguished professionals such as Beverly Counts Rodrigues (former reporter/anchor at Channel 6), Cornelius Foote (formerly with The Miami Herald), Rochelle Bridges (deceased, former reporter at WSVN-Ch. 7), Jill Tracey (deceased, former broadcaster with HOT-105FM), and Peggy Lewis (formerly with WPLG-Ch. 10). More recently, the chapter has been led by Russell Motley (Journalism Professor at Florida Memorial University), Jawan Strader (anchor at NBC-6), and Calvin Hughes (anchor at WPLG-Ch. 10). The founding members of NABJ - South Florida include Mike McQueen (deceased, formerly with The Miami Herald) and his wife Glenda, Mark Henderson (retired from the Miami-Dade County Aviation Department), and Carmen Morris (former Executive Director of the South Florida Black Media Coalition, now with Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs).

This resolution honors the exceptional work of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) – South Florida Chapter and celebrates the remarkable achievements of its distinguished members. We express our heartfelt gratitude for their dedication and service to the community, particularly to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-008 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the National Association of Black Journalist (NABJ) – South Florida chapter.

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-008 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS (NABJ) – SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER**

WHEREAS, founded in 1975, the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) is the largest coalition of Black journalists in the world, with over 4,000 members. NABJ - South Florida, originally established in the early 1980s as the South Florida Association of Black Journalists, is a proud chapter member of NABJ. NABJ – South Florida is made up of a dedicated group of professionals who embody honed journalistic skills, uphold the highest industry standards, and advocate for fair and unbiased coverage of African Americans and Africans in the Diaspora. This legacy draw inspiration from trailblazing journalists such as Frederick Douglass, founder of *The North Star*; Ida B. Wells, co-founder of the NAACP; Lerone Bennett, of *EBONY* and *JET* magazines; Max Robinson, the first Black anchor on a major network (ABC); and countless others who fought tirelessly to ensure that Black voices were heard in newsrooms and the community was accurately represented; and

WHEREAS, as a bridge between the community and the media, NABJ - South - Florida plays a vital role in advocating for greater access to the media while promoting understanding and sensitivity within newsrooms and media-related workspaces. The chapter is dedicated to fostering continuous growth, offering workshops and seminars that help enhance the skills of its members while creating pathways for journalists of color to enter and excel in the industry. Since its inception, NABJ - South Florida has mentored students in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. In recent years, the chapter adopted Miami Central Senior High School, working with students to develop their communication skills, revitalize the school's communications program, provide scholarships, and offer mentorship, and

WHEREAS, in today's age of rampant misinformation, NABJ - South Florida's work is more crucial than ever. With truth often questioned, it is essential to support and empower the next generation of truth seekers. The chapter has long partnered with Florida International University (FIU) to provide scholarships and continues to mentor students through the University of Miami's High School Journalism Workshop, and Florida Memorial University's Career Day; and

WHEREAS, in addition to supporting its members and advocating for increased representation of Black professionals at all levels of media, NABJ - South Florida aligns with the national organization's goals of improving the image of Black men in society. The chapter is working to attract more men of color into the media industry and elevate Black excellence through initiatives like the Black Male Media Project. In collaboration with Barbershop Speaks, the chapter sponsors the Fatherhood Enrichment Initiative, a program that fosters stronger father-child relationships through barbershop dialogues in an effort to rebuild trust and deepen connections within the community. This initiative includes free haircuts and complimentary breakfasts. NABJ - South Florida also gives back to the community through holiday meals, gifts, volunteering and partnering with organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Hollywood, and Life Net 4 Families, among others; and

WHEREAS, past presidents of NABJ - South Florida include distinguished professionals such as Beverly Counts Rodrigues (former reporter/anchor at Channel 6), Cornelius Foote (formerly with The Miami Herald), Rochelle Bridges (deceased, former reporter at WSVN-Ch. 7), Jill Tracey (deceased, former broadcaster with HOT-105FM), and Peggy Lewis (formerly with WPLG-Ch. 10). More recently, the chapter has been led by Russell Motley (Journalism Professor at Florida Memorial University), Jawan Strader (anchor at NBC-6), and Calvin Hughes (anchor at WPLG-Ch. 10). The founding members of NABJ - South Florida include Mike McQueen (deceased, formerly with The Miami Herald) and his wife Glenda, Mark Henderson (retired from the Miami-Dade County Aviation Department), and Carmen Morris (former Executive Director of the South Florida Black Media Coalition, now with Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs); and

WHEREAS, this resolution honors the exceptional work of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) – South Florida chapter and celebrates the remarkable achievements of its distinguished members. We express our heartfelt gratitude for their dedication and service to the community, particularly to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-008 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) – South Florida chapter.

A copy of this proclamation is placed in the permanent record of this Board.

Presented this twelfth day of February, A.D. 2025

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary