

Dr. Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

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Mr. Roberto J. Alonso
Ms. Mary Blanco
Mr. Daniel Espino } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION
Dr. Steve Gallon III
Mr. Joseph S. Geller
Ms. Luisa Santos

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZES FEBRUARY 2025 AS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO BE CELEBRATED IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

The celebration of black history on a national level first began in February 1926, in large part thanks to the efforts to the great American historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. His efforts led to the national observance of Black History Week. This week became the time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions by African Americans to this nation. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial celebration, Black History Week became Black History Month.

Every United States President since 1976 has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. The Association for the Study of American Life and History (ASALH), founded by Dr. Woodson, for many years has helped lead the annual National Black History Month celebration. Every year, Black History Month is given a national theme by the ASALH. The 2025 Black History Month theme, *African Americans and Labor*, sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work. Considering Black people's work through the widest perspectives provides versatile and insightful platforms for examining Black life and culture through space and time.

For four centuries, African Americans have played a crucial role in shaping the economic and architectural foundation of the United States. Originally brought to the Americas for their knowledge and labor, enslaved Africans were subjected to exploitation. Following the Civil War and the country's transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy, African Americans took on roles as sharecroppers, farm laborers, landowners, butchers, chefs, barbers, carpenters, brick masons, tradesmen, and wage earners. Their contributions to the built environment are evident across the nation, particularly in the South, where they designed and constructed some of the country's most iconic structures.

Black workers have also been at the forefront in demanding fair wages, fair compensation and improved working conditions. Black professionals and laborers across various fields, including education, healthcare, the arts, and industry, fought for economic justice. Women like Addie

Wyatt helped open the way for redefining women's roles within the general labor movement advocating for job security, reproductive rights, and fair wages. The labor movement gained a significant victory in 1925 with the creation of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids by A. Philip Randolph, marking the first Black union to be recognized by the American Federation of Labor. Decades later, Martin Luther King, Jr. built upon Randolph's efforts by incorporating economic justice into the Poor People's Campaign, reinforcing the fight for full citizenship and equality for Black Americans.

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

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize February 2025 as National Black History Month and join in celebrating National Black History Month in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools.