

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-015 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MARILYN HOLIFIELD ESQ.

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Marilyn Holifield, Esq. earned her Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, a Bachelor of Arts in Economics with a Concentration in Black Studies from Swarthmore College, and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Barry University. She is a senior partner at Holland & Knight LLP, a prestigious international law firm with roots in Florida dating back to the 1890s. Holifield joined the firm in 1981 and became a partner in 1986, making history as the first Black woman partner at a major law firm in Florida.

A native of Tallahassee, Florida, Ms. Holifield was one of three Black students who helped desegregate Tallahassee's Leon High School, which had been racially segregated for 100 years. She has served on the Executive Committees of the Harvard Board of Overseers, the Swarthmore College Board of Managers, the University of Miami Board of Trustees, and the Harvard Alumni Association. Ms. Holifield has received numerous awards in recognition of her significant civic and professional contributions.

She is a co-founder and board chair of the Miami Museum of Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora (Miami MoCAAD). In 2021, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation honored her as a Knight Arts Champion. Holifield's publications include *Seven Sisters and a Brother: Friendship, Resistance, and Untold Truths Behind Black Student Activism in the 1960s* (a collective memoir with seven co-authors) (2019) and *Museum of Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora: Global Reach Based in Miami* (MoCAAD), published in the *International Review of African American Art* (2017), co-authored with Alejandro de la Fuente.

This resolution honors the groundbreaking achievements, exceptional leadership, and countless contributions to the community of Marilyn Holifield, Esq. We celebrate her inspiring example of excellence in both her professional and civic endeavors. Ms. Holifield's accomplishments and leadership are a testament to the power of education, resilience, and vision.

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. 25-015 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Marilyn Holifield, Esq.

**REPLACEMENT
B-6**

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-015 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING MARILYN HOLIFIELD, ESQ.**

WHEREAS, Marilyn Holifield, Esq. earned her Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, a Bachelor of Arts in Economics with a Concentration in Black Studies from Swarthmore College, and an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Barry University. She is a senior partner at Holland & Knight LLP, a prestigious international law firm with roots in Florida dating back to the 1890s. Holifield joined the firm in 1981 and became a partner in 1986, making history as the first Black woman partner at a major law firm in Florida; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tallahassee, Florida, Ms. Holifield was one of three Black students who helped desegregate Tallahassee's Leon High School, which had been racially segregated for 100 years. She has served on the Executive Committees of the Harvard Board of Overseers, the Swarthmore College Board of Managers, the University of Miami Board of Trustees, and the Harvard Alumni Association. Ms. Holifield has received numerous awards in recognition of her significant civic and professional contributions; and

WHEREAS, she is a co-founder and board chair of the Miami Museum of Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora (Miami MoCAAD). In 2021, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation honored her as a Knight Arts Champion. Holifield's publications include *Seven Sisters and a Brother: Friendship, Resistance, and Untold Truths Behind Black Student Activism in the 1960s* (a collective memoir with seven co-authors) (2019) and *Museum of Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora: Global Reach Based in Miami* (MoCAAD), published in the *International Review of African American Art* (2017), co-authored with Alejandro de la Fuente; and

WHEREAS, this resolution honors the groundbreaking achievements, exceptional leadership, and countless contributions to the community of Marilyn Holifield, Esq. We celebrate her inspiring example of excellence in both her professional and civic endeavors. Ms. Holifield's accomplishments and leadership are a testament to the power of education, resilience, and vision;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-015 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Marilyn Holifield, Esq.

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

Presented this nineteenth day of March, A.D. 2025

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary