

Dr. Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO, 26-036 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING SAMANTHA QUARTERMAN FOR HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

In 2001, Samantha Quarterman founded the Multi-Ethnic Youth Group Association, Inc. (MEYGA), a nonprofit organization established to support girls between the ages of 11 and 18 who were vulnerable to criminal activity and faced challenges related to personal development. Driven by a vision to create positive pathways for young women, she built the organization on the principles of mentorship, accountability, education, and opportunity, providing the guidance and structure necessary to help participants develop into confident and successful adults.

MEYGA first operated from the Department of Juvenile Justice facility located at 7900 NW 27th Avenue, where Samantha began cultivating programs designed to encourage academic achievement, leadership development, and positive decision-making among the young women she served. As the organization grew, so did its impact throughout the community.

In 2006, following the tragic drive-by shooting death of 9-year-old Sherdavia Jenkins—an honor roll student and gifted chess prodigy at Lillie C. Evans Elementary School—MEYGA relocated its operations to the Liberty Square Community Center. The heartbreaking loss of Sherdavia became a defining moment for the Liberty City community and further strengthened Samantha's commitment to community advocacy. Under her leadership, MEYGA played an instrumental role in advocating for the creation of a memorial park honoring Sherdavia's life and legacy at the corner of Northwest 62nd Street and 12th Avenue. The park serves as a lasting tribute to a young life lost too soon and stands as a symbol of the community's resilience and determination to create safer neighborhoods for future generations.

As Samantha continued working closely with young girls, she came to understand that many of the challenges they faced were rooted in broader family and community circumstances. She witnessed firsthand the struggles experienced not only by the girls but also by their brothers, parents, grandparents, and neighbors. Recognizing that meaningful and lasting change required a more comprehensive approach, she expanded MEYGA's mission beyond youth mentorship to address the educational, economic, and social needs of entire families.

Today, MEYGA has evolved into a multifaceted community service organization that provides a wide range of programs designed to strengthen individuals and families across Liberty City and surrounding communities. Initially focused on teenage girls, MEYGA later expanded its academic reach, and today,

the organization operates a private school serving approximately 80 male and female students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, offering a supportive educational environment focused on academic excellence and personal growth. In addition, MEYGA provides a comprehensive after-school and tutorial program that reinforces classroom learning while promoting character development and life skills.

Understanding the importance of serving every generation, the organization also offers daily meals and meaningful social engagement opportunities for senior citizens, helping to reduce isolation while fostering a sense of belonging and community. Through its food distribution initiatives and outreach efforts, MEYGA extends compassion and practical assistance to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity and homelessness, ensuring that essential resources reach those in greatest need.

As a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Multi-Ethnic Youth Group Association remains steadfast in its mission to promote educational achievement, economic empowerment, social development, and self-sufficiency. What began as a mentoring program for vulnerable young girls has grown into a cornerstone of community transformation, touching the lives of children, families, seniors, and countless residents throughout Liberty City. Through Samantha's vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment to service, MEYGA continues to create opportunities, inspire hope, and build stronger communities—one life at a time.

This Resolution recognizes Samantha Quarterman for her unwavering devotion to social development, self-sufficiency, and economic empowerment. Her leadership and legacy of service continue to profoundly enrich the lives of countless young people in Miami-Dade County.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY MEMBER
BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 26-036 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Samantha Quarterman for her outstanding contributions and dedication to the Miami-Dade County community.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-036
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING SAMANTHA
QUARTERMAN FOR HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION TO THE MIAMI-
DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, in 2001, Samantha Quarterman founded the Multi-Ethnic Youth Group Association, Inc. (MEYGA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving girls between the ages of 11 and 18 who were vulnerable to criminal activity and personal development challenges by providing mentorship, guidance, structure, and opportunities that empowered them to build successful and productive futures; and

WHEREAS, MEYGA began its mission at the Department of Juvenile Justice facility located at 7900 NW 27th Avenue, where Samantha's unwavering commitment to uplifting young women laid the foundation for an organization that would become a pillar of hope and opportunity within the community; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, following the heartbreaking drive-by shooting death of 9-year-old Sherdavia Jenkins, an honor roll student and chess prodigy at Lillie C. Evans Elementary School, MEYGA relocated its operations to the Liberty Square Community Center, reaffirming its commitment to serving the Liberty City community during a time of profound loss; and

WHEREAS, through Samantha's visionary leadership and steadfast advocacy, MEYGA worked collaboratively with community stakeholders to establish a memorial park honoring the life and legacy of Sherdavia Jenkins at the corner of Northwest 62nd Street and 12th Avenue, ensuring that her memory would inspire generations to come; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that the challenges facing the young women she served often extended to their families, Samantha broadened MEYGA's mission to address the educational, social, and economic needs of children, parents, grandparents, and the broader community through comprehensive programs and services; and

WHEREAS, today, MEYGA operates a private school serving approximately 80 male and female students in grades K-12, provides a full-scale after-school and tutorial program, offers daily meals and social engagement opportunities for senior citizens, and conducts food distribution and outreach initiatives that assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, as a 501(c)(3) community-based organization, MEYGA remains dedicated to promoting educational excellence, economic empowerment, social development, and self-sufficiency for the residents of Liberty City and surrounding communities, creating meaningful opportunities and transforming countless lives through compassionate service and community leadership; and

WHEREAS, Samantha Quarterman's vision, dedication, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others have made an enduring and lasting impact on the community, inspiring hope, fostering resilience, and strengthening generations of families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 26-036 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Samantha Quarterman for her outstanding contributions and dedication to the Miami-Dade County community.

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

Presented this twenty-second day of July, A. D. 2026

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary