

Mr. Roberto J. Alonso, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 26-038 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING VICTOR BENITEZ, PRESIDENT AND OWNER OF GUS MACHADO FORD

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Victor Benitez was born on October 23, 1954, in Havana, Cuba, and immigrated to the United States on January 23, 1969, embracing the opportunities of his adopted country through perseverance, determination, and an unwavering work ethic. After making Miami-Dade his home, Mr. Benitez pursued his education through Miami-Dade County Public Schools, graduating from Hialeah Junior High School in 1971 and Hialeah High School in 1973, before earning his Associate of Arts degree from Miami-Dade Community College in 1975.

In 1975, Mr. Benitez began a distinguished career in the automotive industry at Deel Ford in Coral Gables, where his dedication earned him a promotion to Sales Manager in 1978. His entrepreneurial vision and exceptional leadership led him to become part owner of Potamkin Used Car Center in 1983, Vice President and General Manager of Potamkin Toyota in 1986, and part owner and General Manager of Gus Machado Ford in 1988, where he helped build one of South Florida's most respected automotive dealerships through integrity, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to customer service.

Throughout his career, Mr. Benitez has earned the admiration and respect of colleagues, employees, customers, and business leaders by mentoring future leaders, creating opportunities for others, and exemplifying integrity, humility, and servant leadership. Recognizing that true success is measured by service to others, he has generously dedicated his time and talents to the community by serving as Vice President of the Hialeah Chamber of Commerce, as a member of the Board of Directors of The Education Fund, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Thomas University.

Mr. Benitez has been a steadfast supporter of Miami-Dade County Public Schools through annual backpack drives that have helped countless students begin the school year prepared for success. He played a key role in supporting the establishment of the Automotive Training Center at Hialeah High School, expanding career and technical education opportunities and preparing students for successful careers in the industry. His efforts are part of his enduring commitment to strengthening education, business, workforce development, and civic life throughout Miami-Dade.

Central to Mr. Benitez's life is his family. Since 1975, he has been married to the love of his life, Idania Benitez, beginning a lifelong partnership rooted in faith, family, and service. Together, they welcomed their son, Victor Daniel Benitez, in 1978, and have since been blessed with three grandchildren: Jasmine Benitez, Jennifer Benitez, and Matthew Benitez.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, proudly honors Victor Benitez for his outstanding leadership, civic engagement, and profound contributions to the automotive industry and public education in Miami-Dade County and beyond.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. ROBERTO J. ALONSO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-038 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Victor Benitez, President and Owner of Gus Machado Ford.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-038
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING
VICTOR BENITEZ, PRESIDENT AND OWNER OF GUS MACHADO FORD

WHEREAS, Victor Benitez was born on October 23, 1954, in Havana, Cuba, and immigrated to the United States on January 23, 1969, embracing the opportunities of his adopted country through perseverance, determination, and an unwavering work ethic. After making Miami-Dade his home, Mr. Benitez pursued his education through Miami-Dade County Public Schools, graduating from Hialeah Junior High School in 1971 and Hialeah High School in 1973, before earning his Associate of Arts degree from Miami-Dade Community College in 1975; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Mr. Benitez began a distinguished career in the automotive industry at Deel Ford in Coral Gables, where his dedication earned him a promotion to Sales Manager in 1978. His entrepreneurial vision and exceptional leadership led him to become part owner of Potamkin Used Car Center in 1983, Vice President and General Manager of Potamkin Toyota in 1986, and part owner and General Manager of Gus Machado Ford in 1988, where he helped build one of South Florida's most respected automotive dealerships through integrity, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to customer service; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Mr. Benitez has earned the admiration and respect of colleagues, employees, customers, and business leaders by mentoring future leaders, creating opportunities for others, and exemplifying integrity, humility, and servant leadership. Recognizing that true success is measured by service to others, he generously dedicates his time and talents to the community by serving as Vice President of the Hialeah Chamber of Commerce, as a member of the Board of Directors of The Education Fund, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Thomas University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Benitez has been a steadfast supporter of Miami-Dade County Public Schools through annual backpack drives that have helped countless students begin the school year prepared for success. He played a key role in supporting the establishment of the Automotive Training Center at Hialeah High School, expanding career and technical education opportunities and preparing students for successful careers in the industry. His efforts are part of his enduring commitment to strengthening education, business, workforce development, and civic life throughout Miami-Dade; and

WHEREAS, Central to Mr. Benitez's life is his family. Since 1975, he has been married to the love of his life, Idania Benitez, beginning a lifelong partnership rooted in faith, family, and service. Together, they welcomed their son, Victor Daniel Benitez, in 1978, and have since been blessed with three grandchildren: Jasmine Benitez, Jennifer Benitez, and Matthew Benitez; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, proudly honors Victor Benitez for his outstanding leadership, civic engagement, and profound contributions to the automotive industry and public education in Miami-Dade County and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-038 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Victor Benitez, President and Owner of Gus Machado Ford.

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

Presented this eleventh day of August, A.D. 2026

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary