

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-023 OF  
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLES OF MIAMI, MIAMI  
BEACH AND NORTH DADE**

**COMMITTEE:               INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
BLUEPRINT:               INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

The Friendship Circle of Miami was founded in 2004 and is a non-profit community based volunteer organization dedicated to offering friendship and acceptance to children, teens, and young adults with special needs. Services are provided while empowering teenage and young adult volunteers by building their leadership skills as they foster the values of altruism and volunteerism.

The mission of The Friendship Circle is to provide respite while imparting renewed strength, comfort and peace of mind to the parents of these children with special needs. Simultaneously, an effort is made to heighten the community's awareness, sensitivity and sense of responsibility to individuals with special needs, with a goal of ultimately embracing these unique members of our community.

Assistance is provided to families whose children are physically or intellectually challenged. The Circle's unique formula introduces teenage and young adult volunteers to "special friends" and through shared experiences both are enriched

Individuals with special needs may suffer from loneliness in addition to dealing with their handicaps. They could have the best professional help, but may not have friendships. They may not attend regular social gatherings, and their classmates and peers may not interact with them in the same way as they do with others. Extra attention, love and friendship from friends and people in their community may be missing. A friendship circle can offer a solution.

The Friendship Circle is to be commended for the benefits provided to anyone in need of assistance. The students, teachers, and families of Miami-Dade County Public Schools have benefited greatly from the many services and projects developed and supported by The Friendship Circles of Miami, Miami Beach and North Dade.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-023 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Friendship Circles of Miami, Miami Beach and North Dade.

**Replacement  
B-14**

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-023  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLES OF MIAMI, MIAMI BEACH AND NORTH DADE**

**WHEREAS**, The Friendship Circle of Miami was founded in 2004 and is a non-profit community based volunteer organization dedicated to offering friendship and acceptance to children, teens, and young adults with special needs, and;

**WHEREAS**, Services are provided while empowering teenage and young adult volunteers by building their leadership skills as they foster the values of altruism and volunteerism, and;

**WHEREAS**, The mission of The Friendship Circle is to provide respite while imparting renewed strength, comfort and peace of mind to the parents of these children with special needs. Simultaneously, an effort is made to heighten the community's awareness, sensitivity and sense of responsibility to individuals with special needs, with a goal of ultimately embracing these unique members of our community, and;

**WHEREAS**, Assistance is provided to families whose children are physically or intellectually challenged and teenage and young adult volunteers are introduced to "special friends" and through shared experiences both are enriched, and;

**WHEREAS**, Extra attention, love and friendship from friends and people in their community may be missing and a friendship circle is offered as a solution, and;

**WHEREAS**, The students, teachers, and families of Miami-Dade County Public Schools have benefited greatly from the many services and projects developed and supported by The Friendship Circles of Miami, Miami Beach and North Dade.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-023 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing The Friendship Circles of Miami, Miami Beach and North Dade.

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

**Presented this third day of February, A.D. 2016**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary