

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Dr. Marta Pérez, Vice Chair  
Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member  
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-019  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING SABRINA COHEN AND THE  
SABRINA COHEN FOUNDATION

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

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

On the night of October 31, 1992, Sabrina Cohen's life changed forever. What was supposed to be a night out with friends, turned hauntingly tragic when the teenage boy behind the wheel decided to race against another car. Carelessly, the boy driving lost control and struck a tree. Sabrina, 14-years old at the time and a sophomore at Miami Beach Senior High was a passenger in the car. She survived, but the accident left her with a spinal cord injury and confined to a wheelchair. In the early days, despite the daily challenges and fears, Sabrina was determined to never let her injury get the best of her. After a long, hard recovery, she graduated high school with the rest of her class.

Sabrina graduated from the University of Miami in 1999 with a double major in advertising and psychology, then received a diploma in copywriting from the Miami Ad School in 2002. In 2012, she went back to UM to receive her certification as a Professional Life Coach. In 2015, she got licensed as a Florida Real Estate Sales Associate.

Since her injury, Sabrina has been an inspiration to everyone she meets. For over two decades, she has addressed over 20,000 students throughout South Florida on topics such as peer pressure, making positive choices in life and the importance of having an education. She has visited schools to talk about her new life with paralysis, urging and inspiring young students to drive carefully. Also, she has advocated for disability rights and other issues that impact the well-being of society.

Since 2004, she has traveled the country speaking at scientific conferences at universities such as Harvard, Wisconsin, Stanford, Baylor College of Medicine, University of Michigan and Johns Hopkins University to raise awareness for the field of regenerative medicine. She has advocated multiple times on Capitol Hill and spoken at the United Nations.

In addition to being a motivational speaker, mentor and Professional Life Coach, Sabrina is the founder of the Sabrina Cohen Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to funding cutting edge research and innovative therapies that will improve the quality of life for individuals living with spinal cord injuries and other disabilities. Her Foundation's programs offer a road to recovery from a total mind, body and spiritual approach.

In 2012, Sabrina was recognized by SELF Magazine as a winner of its national "Women Doing Good" contest and was featured on the Today Show. She also won the nationwide "America Inspired" contest in the Overcoming Adversity category, and WebMD named her an "American Health Hero" in 2009 for her resilience and efforts as an advocate for her cause.

In addition to her work with her own organization, Sabrina serves as an ambassador for the Christopher Reeve Foundation, Darrell Gwynn Foundation and the Genetics Policy Institute. Sabrina is a member of the Disability Access Committee for the City of Miami Beach and is on several boards for the spinal cord injury community.

Sabrina Cohen and the Sabrina Cohen Foundation are to be commended for their strong commitment and dedication to improving the lives of the disabled through awareness, acceptance, and innovation throughout the country.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-019 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Sabrina Cohen and the Sabrina Cohen Foundation.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-019  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING SABRINA COHEN AND THE SABRINA COHEN FOUNDATION**

**WHEREAS**, Sabrina Cohen suffered a C-5 spinal cord injury in 1992 from a drag racing car accident in Miami Beach. She was only a 14 year old sophomore at Miami Beach Senior High School and has been confined to a wheelchair since. Sabrina was determined to never let her injury get the best of her. After a long, hard recovery, she graduated high school with the rest of her class. She visited schools to talk about her new life with paralysis, urging and inspiring young students to drive carefully; and

**WHEREAS**, Sabrina graduated from the University of Miami in 1999 with a double major in advertising and psychology, then received a diploma in copywriting from the Miami Ad School in 2002. In 2012, she went back to UM to receive her certification as a Professional Life Coach. In 2015, she got licensed as a Florida Real Estate Sales Associate.; and

**WHEREAS**, since her injury, Sabrina has been an inspiration to everyone she meets. For over two decades, she has addressed over 20,000 students throughout South Florida on topics such as peer pressure, making positive choices in life and the importance of having an education. She has visited schools to talk about her new life with paralysis, urging and inspiring young students to drive carefully. Also, she has advocated for disability rights and other issues that impact the well-being of society; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to being a motivational speaker, mentor and Professional Life Coach, Sabrina is the founder of the Sabrina Cohen Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to funding cutting edge research and innovative therapies that will improve the quality of life for individuals living with spinal cord injuries and other disabilities. Her Foundation's programs offer a road to recovery from a total mind, body and spiritual approach; and

**WHEREAS**, Sabrina serves as an ambassador for the Christopher Reeve Foundation, Darrell Gwynn Foundation and the Genetics Policy Institute. Sabrina is a member of the Disability Access Committee for the City of Miami Beach and sits on several boards for the spinal cord injury community.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-019 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing Sabrina Cohen and the Sabrina Cohen Foundation.

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

**Presented this fifteenth day of February, A.D. 2017**

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary