

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CORAL GABLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD URGING THE CITY COMMISSION TO PURCHASE A DEDICATED CLASSROOM AT HENRY S. WEST LABORATORY SCHOOL AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$4.2 MILLION DOLLARS, SECURING ONE CLASSROOM PER GRADE LEVEL FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE, FOR A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY STUDENT STATIONS, FOR CORAL GABLES RESIDENTS IN PERPETUITY.**

**WHEREAS,** The Economic Development Board believes that quality public school offerings for Coral Gables residents contributes greatly to the City's economic development efforts; and

**WHEREAS,** The City Commission has received encouragement from Coral Gables residents for the purchase of a dedicated classroom at Henry S. West Laboratory during the Education Town Hall Meeting, Special Meetings, and City Commission Meetings; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Coral Gables has expressed interest in expanding access for Coral Gables residents to Henry S. West Laboratory School for several years; and

**WHEREAS,** Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) has entered into a similar arrangement with other Cities, most notably Key Biscayne; and

**WHEREAS,** Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) is now expanding Henry S. West Laboratory School to accommodate the new 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms, and the new building has been designed to accommodate additional space should the City wish to purchase a dedicated classroom; and

**WHEREAS,** Previous designs included a 350 car commercial garage, a partial land swap with the University of Miami, and the vacation of a portion of Carillo Street, thereby prompting a balancing of interests, in the form of the City requesting a reduced payment for the dedicated classroom; and

**WHEREAS,** The school design has now significantly changed, no longer requiring a commercial garage; a partial land swap; or the vacation of a portion of Carillo St; and

**WHEREAS,** MDCPS is prepared to move forward with the expansion plans, therefore prompting swift and immediate action by the City to ensure the highest level of efficiency, coordination and safety; and

**WHEREAS,** Whereas, the dedication of seats at West Lab for City residents would help to further key economic development objectives, including increasing surrounding property values and supporting business recruitment efforts.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF CORAL GABLES:**

**SECTION 1.** The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

**SECTION 2.** That the Economic Development Board urges the City Commission to purchase a dedicated classroom at Henry S. West Laboratory School, securing one classroom per grade level from Kindergarten through eighth grade, for a total of approximately 180 student stations, for Coral Gables residents in perpetuity.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17 DAY OF FEBRUARY, A.D., 2017.