

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES MONTH

WHEREAS, there are 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the Nation, four in the State of Florida, which were founded prior to 1964. The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, defines an HBCU as: “any historically black college or university that was established prior to 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of black Americans, and that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary of Education to be a reliable authority as to the quality of training offered or is, according to such an agency or association, making reasonable progress toward accreditation...”; and

WHEREAS, these HBCUs were formed to eliminate the adverse residue from slavery, plus a century of legally sanctioned discrimination, against United States citizens of African descent. The genesis and rationale for HBCUs are different and distinct from that of institutions serving other minority groups in the United States (often referred to as Minority Serving Institutions, or MSIs); and

WHEREAS, HBCUs make a strong and unique contribution to the United States by providing an education to many socioeconomically-disadvantaged young people among the nation’s African American and other minority populations. The Nation’s HBCUs provide a supportive environment in which qualities of leadership, strong values and character are developed, along with a strong sense of identity and self-actualization; and

WHEREAS, the participation of the graduates of HBCUs in the nation’s business, social and political systems, and in the military services adds great economic and social values to our nation. Their involvement in the social and political discourse of the United States strengthens our democracy and its stability; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs have received, and continue to deserve, legislative distinction, as well as recognition, commendations and financial support from all segments of our society: Federal, state and local governments; corporations, foundations and associations; and individuals.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Superintendent and School Board of Palm Beach County proclaims September 2007 as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Month.

Done this 19th day of September, two thousand seven, in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D., Superintendent

Monroe Benaim, M.D., Vice-Chairman, District 1

Mr. Mark Hansen, District 5

Dr. Sandra S. Richmond, District 6

Mr. William G. Graham, Chairman, District 3

Mrs. Paulette Burdick, District 2

Vacant, District 4

Debra L. Robinson, M.D., District 7

