

RESOLUTION 2011-5

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.
PARTNERING WITH THE CHILDREN'S TRUST TO
ADVANCE THE READ TO LEARN CAMPAIGN**

WHEREAS, The Children's Trust's *Read to Learn/Leer para aprender/Li pou apran* campaign seeks to mobilize, organize and coordinate the wide number of existing reading initiatives and literacy enhancement programs in Miami-Dade County to create collective impact and spur systemic progress; and

WHEREAS, one-third of Miami-Dade County third graders fail to read at grade level and two-thirds fail to read proficiently in the third grade, a critical academic juncture; and

WHEREAS, 163 public elementary schools and K-8 centers around the county are considered underperforming, with high percentages of children scoring below grade level, results that in many cases fall below state averages; and

WHEREAS, every commission district and municipality in the county is affected by the fact that many of the students who fail to read at a basic level and score below grade level on state and national standardized tests live in areas of high poverty; and

WHEREAS, educators and researchers recognize the importance of demonstrating proficient reading skills by the third grade year, and studies show that most students who cannot falter in later grades and often fail to earn a diploma; and

WHEREAS, by improving reading skills in more third graders, *Read to Learn* fosters their long-term academic success; continued engagement in the educational process; attainment of vocation and job skills; and self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, *Read to Learn* presents an immediate opportunity to share expertise and resources with a wide array of partners across Miami-Dade County and offers the long-term potential to attract funding dollars to invest in literacy education and support progress toward local and statewide goals; and

WHEREAS, *Read to Learn* seeks to focus the entire educational community on a single set of goals and to encourage a common agenda of shared measurement, continuous communication and mutually reinforcing activities among all partners and participants; and

WHEREAS, *Read to Learn* seeks to develop and advance a strategic plan that is ambitious, doable, sustainable and trackable in order to address the areas that most sorely affect reading progress: school readiness/parenting for literacy in the early school years; school readiness/quality child care; summer learning loss; and chronic absence/parental school involvement; and

WHEREAS, through a collaboration of Miami-Dade government, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the Miami-Dade County Public Library System, municipalities and a wide cross-section of public, private, business, civic, philanthropic and faith-based agencies, by the year 2020 ***Read to Learn*** seeks to reduce by half the number of Miami-Dade County third-graders who fail to read at grade level, and to foster literacy proficiency and a life-long love of reading in all Miami-Dade County children; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY Miami-Dade County League of Cities, Inc.

Section 1: Agrees to submit, together with Miami-Dade County government and The Children's Trust, a joint application to vie for the 2012 "All-American City/County" Award offered by the National Civic League that seeks to improve third-grade reading skills.

Section 2: Agrees to collaborate with The Children's Trust ***Read to Learn*** partners to develop and implement the campaign's stated goals, especially, by the year 2020, to reduce by half the number of third-graders who fail to read at or above grade level.


Section 3: Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President and CEO of The Children's Trust.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, Inc. at regular meeting assembled this 3rd day of November, 2011.

ATTEST:

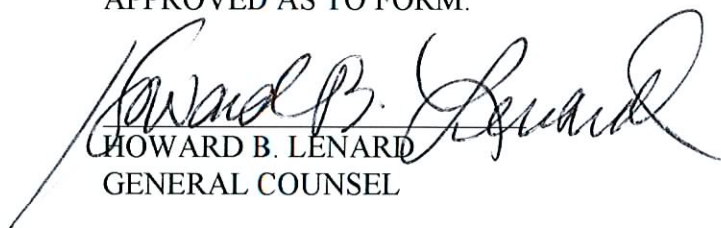


JON BURGESS
Secretary



JUAN CARLOS BERMUDEZ
PRESIDENT

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



HOWARD B. LENARD
GENERAL COUNSEL