



The School Board of Broward County, Florida

RESOLUTION

No: 18-104

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE OLD DILLARD MUSEUM FLORIDA EMANCIPATION DAY
MINI-FESTIVAL**

WHEREAS, the struggle for equality and justice has been and continues to be a grand inspiration in the hearts, minds and endeavors of people of all races, creeds and colors in the development of nations, cultures and the stability of economic systems; and

WHEREAS, the history of the emancipation of people of African descent has been a powerful and provocative lesson in human rights in this state, in our nation, and in the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, in this state all Blacks were emancipated from slavery by the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation, an executive order of President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, enacted nearly two and a half years before it could be fully enforced, the proclamation was not totally applied in the state of Florida when it was signed on January 1, 1862, because this state was able to hold its capitol city as a Confederate state throughout the Civil War that split this nation; and

WHEREAS, The Knott House Museum in Tallahassee and the Florida Secretary of State each year re-enact U.S. Army Brigadier General Edward Moody McCook reading an order on May 20, 1865, that emancipated all Blacks in the state as part of re-affirming the state of Florida as a part of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Broward County Public Schools has made notable efforts to preserve and infuse the history of Africans and African-Americans in its curriculum, its classrooms, and in its support of African-American heritage, including its support of the Old Dillard Museum, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the first public schoolhouse for Blacks in Broward County; and

WHEREAS, the Old Dillard Museum and a host of its community supporters wish to joyfully recall the opportunities and responsibilities that emancipation afforded to African-Americans in the state, the nation, and throughout the Western Hemisphere by holding a mini-festival on the museum site, showcasing aspects of our history, music, and literature; and

WHEREAS, a Florida Emancipation Day Mini-Festival will be held at Old Dillard Museum on Saturday, May 19, 2018, that honors the tradition of giving all people the opportunity to manage their own lives, to choose their own professions, and to enhance the development of their own cultural pursuits.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, in conjunction with the Old Dillard Foundation, Inc., Broward Cultural Division, Destination Sistrunk, the Florida African-American Heritage Preservation Network, the North Broward and Fort Lauderdale chapters of Links, and other community organizations, hereby declare and proclaim Saturday, May 19, 2018, as a

FLORIDA EMANCIPATION DAY CELEBRATION

and urges all schools, departments, and centers within its jurisdiction, and all citizens and residents of Broward County to join in this statewide observance.

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 8th day of May 2018
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
Nora Rupert, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools