

RESOLUTION No. 2008-211-898

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #8 WHICH IS THE LOCAL OPTION FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade College has served more than 1.5 million people in Miami-Dade County with opportunities to study and advance in their educational and career goals, and

WHEREAS, currently more than 165,000 students are enrolled at Miami-Dade College across eight campuses and outreach centers, representing the largest undergraduate enrollment of any college or university in the nation, and reflecting the richly diverse, and multi-cultural population of Miami-Dade County, and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade College restructured its academic and workforce training programs to respond to the pressing needs of business and industry and other important employers, in order to better meet the demands of the local economy, and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade College provides the community with a highly trained workforce, especially in the essential fields of nursing, firefighting, law enforcement, teaching, information technology, biotechnology, entertainment design and technology, among others, and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade College has expanded its academic programs to provide even greater career opportunities for students to earn their baccalaureate degree in education, public safety and nursing, and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade College is one of the 10 largest employers in the county, with 5,798 faculty and staff members, and an economic impact of more than \$1.6 billion for the county, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, composed of prominent business and community leaders from across the state, overwhelmingly approved Constitutional Amendment #8 to be placed before the Florida voters, to provide an opportunity for local communities to express their support for community colleges through local referendum in future years, and

WHEREAS, if voters approve Amendment #8 this November, community colleges, in recognition of their role in training Florida's workforce, will have gained constitutional standing for the first time, and

WHEREAS, if Amendment #8 is approved by voters, Miami-Dade County will have the option of expressing its direct support for Miami-Dade College's continued enhancement of access and affordability of quality training and academic opportunities to the Greater Miami-Dade County community,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS: The foregoing Whereas paragraphs are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true, and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2. EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT: The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens hereby endorses the passage of Constitutional Amendment #8 for community colleges and for Miami-Dade College and will inform and strongly urge its

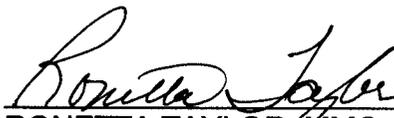
residents to vote Yes on this critically important educational support initiative for the State and for the community.

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2008.

  
SHIRLEY GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
RONETTA TAYLOR, MMC, CITY CLERK

PREPARED BY: SONJA KNIGHTON DICKENS, ESQ.  
City Attorney

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR SHIRLEY GIBSON

MOVED BY: Councilman Gilbert  
SECOND BY: Councilman Bratton

**VOTE: 6-1**

Mayor Shirley Gibson	<u>  X  </u> (Yes)	<u>    </u> (No)
Vice Mayor Barbara Watson	<u>  X  </u> (Yes)	<u>    </u> (No)
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton	<u>  X  </u> (Yes)	<u>    </u> (No)
Councilman Aaron Campbell	<u>  X  </u> (Yes)	<u>    </u> (No)
Councilman Oliver Gilbert, III	<u>  X  </u> (Yes)	<u>    </u> (No)
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett	<u>    </u> (Yes)	<u>  X  </u> (No)
Councilman André Williams	<u>  X  </u> (Yes)	<u>    </u> (No)

# City of Miami Gardens

1515 NW 167<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bldg 5., Suite 200  
Miami Gardens, Florida 33169



Mayor Shirley Gibson  
Vice Mayor Barbara Watson  
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton  
Councilman Aaron Campbell Jr.  
Councilman Oliver Gilbert III  
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett  
Councilman André Williams

## Agenda Cover Page

Date: October 22, 2008

Fiscal Impact: No X  Yes

(If yes, explain in Staff Summary)

Funding Source:

Contract/P.O. Requirement: Yes  No

Sponsor Name/Department:

**Mayor Shirley Gibson**

Public hearing

Ordinance

1st Reading

Advertising requirement: Yes  No

RFP/RFQ # \_\_\_\_\_

Quasi-Judicial

Resolution X

2nd Reading

Yes  No

## TITLE

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## Staff Summary

Miami-Dade College has the largest enrollment of undergraduate students in the nation. Faced with increasing demands and diminishing funds, Amendment 8 suggests changes to the State Constitution which would require the Legislature to authorize counties like Miami-Dade to levy a local option sale tax to supplement community college funding. This can only be done by voter approval; this approval would end after 5 years or be reauthorized by the voters.

In an attempt to ensure the continuance of the education of our young adults provided by the Miami Dade College and local colleges statewide, your support is needed. Higher education promotes the growth and stability of our communities; enhances the affordability of quality training and academic opportunities while providing needed training that meets the demands of the local business communities.