



The School Board of Broward County, Florida

RESOLUTION

No. 08-54

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BLACK SPLASH DAY
FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

WHEREAS, the Old Dillard Museum occupies a prominent place in the history of Fort Lauderdale and has, over the years, presented educational opportunities for African-Americans as the first school constructed for people of color in this area; and

WHEREAS, the Old Dillard Museum highlights the significant contributions of the African-American community in Broward County by preserving a historical landmark building and showcasing relevant artifacts and culturally significant exhibits related to the African-American community; and

WHEREAS, The International Swimming Hall of Fame is a dynamic shrine dedicated to the history, memory, and recognition of the famous swimmers, divers, water polo players, synchronized swimmers and people involved in life saving activities and education whose lives and accomplishments inspire, educate and provide role models for people around the world; and

WHEREAS, The Old Dillard Museum and The International Swimming Hall of Fame will honor African-American swimmers during Black History Month by presenting the special exhibit "Black Splash: The Amazing History of Swimming in Black and White," to tell the story of the African Diaspora and swimming, from the chronicles of the first Portuguese explorers and slavers which described coastal Africans as culturally aquatic peoples and excellent swimmers, through the Jim Crow era when African-Americans were excluded from America's beaches and pools, to today when few African-Americans participate in aquatic sports; and

WHEREAS, the fatal unintentional drowning rate of 5-14 year old African-Americans is 3.2 times higher than that of whites;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, declares and proclaims February 19, 2008, as

BLACK SPLASH DAY

and urges all schools, centers, and departments within its jurisdiction, and the Broward County community, to join in recognizing the significance of this historical presentation and committing to improve water safety for all children.

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 12th day of February 2008.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
Robin Bartleman, Chair

ATTEST: _____
James F. Notter, Superintendent of Schools