

Proclamation

REQUESTED BY
MAYOR SUE GUNZBURGER
BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, National Minority Health Month was established to recognize the existence of disparities in the health status among racial and ethnic populations and the need to eliminate these disparities thereby resulting in improved health for all populations; and

WHEREAS, despite great improvements in the overall health of the nation's population, health disparities remain widespread among members of racial and ethnic minorities, including a lack of access to preventive healthcare and lack of health insurance; and

WHEREAS, illness and chronic disease may be prevented and managed by maintaining a healthy weight, eating healthy nutritious meals, being knowledgeable of family history, and getting regular checkups and screenings; and

WHEREAS, the focus of National Minority Health Month 2011 is "*Bring It or Buy It - Make Lunch Healthy, Green and Good! In Schools, even Food Can Teach Us a Lesson*" on Minority Health and School Food; and

WHEREAS, the link to adult conditions now seen in children such as diabetes, extreme weight gain, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol levels are traced back to food consumption and lack of physical activity; and

WHEREAS, a great number of minority children participate in the school lunch program; therefore, school food is a critical social determinant of the health of minority children.

WHEREAS, in Florida among racial groups in 2009-10, the Black (75.05%) and Hispanic (68.94%) populations had the largest percentages of students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch, followed by the White (34.11%) population. The Hispanic population has experienced a significant increase in free/reduced price lunch eligibility over the last ten years. American Indian (52.42%), Asian (35.39%), and multiracial (53.86%) populations also have shown slight increases in their percentages of students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch.

WHEREAS, school meals should be a great teachable moment that links good nutrition and ability to perform well academically, a pathway to lifelong education on healthy eating, and the environmental impact of food choices.

WHEREAS, Broward County acknowledges that minority health is a priority for individuals, families, communities, the state, and the nation; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

That the Board hereby designates April 2011 as **NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH** in **BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA** and encourages all citizens to raise their awareness about the importance of nutrition in achieving optimum health and fitness for increased quality of life.

March 29, 2011
Date



Sue Gunzburger
Mayor