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RESOLUTION NO. 2014-52

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA, URGING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A LONG TERM STABLE FUNDING PLAN THAT WILL RESTORE FULL FUNDING TO THE ENTIRE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. [Sponsored by Mayor Shelley Stanczyk].**

**WHEREAS**, Libraries are central to our free society because at the heart of our democracy is free access to information for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, or economic status. Libraries represent an individual's right to acquire knowledge, explore and achieve. A healthy library system promotes literacy and cultural appreciation and fosters a more knowledgeable and educated society; and

**WHEREAS**, revenues to Miami-Dade County libraries have been reduced by more than half in the last four years causing reduced operating hours, layoffs, a reduction in new titles, and fewer programs for children and the community. The result: 5.5 million fewer visits to our libraries since budget cuts began and a resulting loss of services to residents, and

**WHEREAS**, trained librarians are central to a 21st century library system because they are skilled research assistants and educators who teach patrons how to best access this important resource that includes books, archives and the Web. They level the playing field for every patron who needs to access to information and the valuable services provided by libraries, and

**WHEREAS**, while the Village Council is aware of the current funding crisis faced by the Public Library System, they are encouraged and optimistic by an improved economy and the prospects for a return to a stabilized and strong economy thereby allowing for the restoration of full funding for the Public Library System; and

**WHEREAS**, the Miami-Dade Public Library System is comprised of forty-nine branches which services over 2.5 million residents as well as approximately 8 million visitors throughout Miami-Dade County and the Palmetto Bay Branch in 2011-12 experienced 100,339 visits and is the 6<sup>th</sup> busiest out of 23 of all similarly ranked branches;

**WHEREAS**, with the reduction of funding to the Miami-Dade Public Library System and the closures, down-sizing or reconfigurations of the Public Library System many children, teens and adults within all the Miami-Dade County municipalities have been turned away from a place of learning as exemplified in the local Palmetto Bay Branch hours reduced from 51 hours per week in 2010-11, to 32 hours in 2013-14; and

**WHEREAS**, since a recent survey by the Task Force has shown that a significant number of Miami-Dade County residents support the library system and are willing to support a better level of service in the Public Library System, the Village Council believes that a sustainable financial plan with the restoration of full funding for the Miami-Dade County Public Library System is in the best interest of all the residents of the Village and County.

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2 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE**  
3 **COUNCIL OF PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**  
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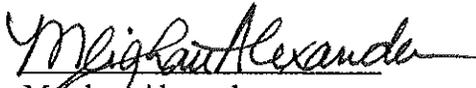
5 **Section 1.** The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this  
6 reference.  
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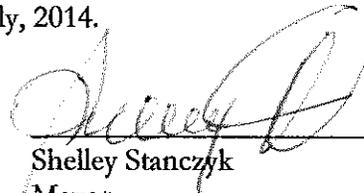
8 **Section 2.** The Village Council hereby urges the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board  
9 of County Commissioners to provide funding for the Public Library System for FY 2014-15, at a  
10 minimum, be maintained at the level of funding for the current FY 2013-14; continue to provide  
11 the current level of service without reductions in staff, and implement a stable long term funding  
12 plan to restore full funding to the entire Miami-Dade Public Library System.  
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14 **Section 3.** The Village Clerk is hereby authorized to transmit this resolution to the  
15 Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners and to the municipalities  
16 within Miami-Dade County.  
17

18 **Section 4.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.  
19

20 PASSED and ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014.  
21

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23 Attest:   
24 Meighan Alexander  
25 Village Clerk  
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28 Shelley Stanczyk  
29 Mayor  
30

31 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE USE  
32 AND RELIANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA ONLY:  
33

  
34 Dexter W. Lehtinen  
35 Village Attorney  
36

37 FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION:  
38

39 Council Member Patrick Fiore YES  
40  
41 Council Member Tim Schaffer YES  
42  
43 Council Member Joan Lindsay YES  
44  
45 Vice-Mayor John DuBois Absent  
46  
47 Mayor Shelley Stanczyk YES  
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