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RESOLUTION NO. 14-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, URGING THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY TO INCREASE BY FIFTY ADDITIONAL STUDENTS THE TOTAL ENROLLMENT AT VIRGINIA SHUMAN YOUNG MONTESSORI MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FROM THE PRIORITY AREA THAT INCLUDES VICTORIA PARK, FLAGLER VILLAGE, COLEE HAMMOCK, BEVERLY HEIGHTS, AND DOWNTOWN FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, Virginia Shuman Young Montessori Magnet Elementary School ("Virginia Shuman Young") has one hundred fifty seats allotted to students in a priority area that includes Victoria Park, Flagler Village, Colee Hammock, Beverly Heights, and downtown Fort Lauderdale, Florida, ("Priority Area"); and

WHEREAS, most all of the seats at Virginia Shuman Young are distributed at-large to applicants from across Broward County because the school operates as a magnet school-Montessori program; and

WHEREAS, the one hundred fifty seats are difficult for neighborhood children to obtain because a super priority is given for those positions to other categories of applicants; and

WHEREAS, this system has greatly limited the ability of eastern Fort Lauderdale families to send their children to a neighborhood school, with statistics from last year showing only eighteen students being accepted at Virginia Shuman Young from the Priority Area out of forty-four who applied; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Broward County has received numerous requests in recent years from eastern Fort Lauderdale residents desiring that more seats be assigned at Virginia Shuman Young for neighborhood students, and is currently reviewing a proposal to re-align elementary school boundaries to establish an assigned attendance area for Virginia Shuman Young; and

WHEREAS, the existing system and allocation creates an extreme burden on families who must now take children to schools miles away and also harms neighborhood cohesion; and

WHEREAS, a quality education system is a key factor in the future economic development of the City of Fort Lauderdale, and the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale respects the desires of parents to enroll their children in neighborhood schools,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the City Commission urges the School Board of Broward County to increase by fifty additional students the total enrollment at Virginia Shuman Young Montessori Magnet Elementary School from the Priority Area that includes Victoria Park, Flagler Village, Colee Hammock, Beverly Heights, and downtown Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in a manner it deems most appropriate.

ADOPTED this the _____ day of _____, 2014.

Mayor
JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER

ATTEST:

City Clerk
JONDA K. JOSEPH