

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-R-182**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES TO THE MEEK FAMILY AND HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF UNITED STATES CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE P. MEEK UPON HER PASSING; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, on November 28, 2021, the family of Carrie Pittman Meek (“Congresswoman Meek”) lost their matriarch and Miami-Dade County lost one of its foremost advocates, a woman who left an indelible mark on legions throughout the County, state, and country; and

**WHEREAS**, since her passing, a number of statements have been released about Congresswoman Meek, all of which describe her and her long-standing career as an accomplished stateswoman, in one form or another, and as a powerhouse with an indomitable spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, Congresswoman Meek was a devoted public servant who loved her community and constituents, and was a formidable advocate who fought tirelessly for the people she served; and

**WHEREAS**, Congresswoman Meek was also a woman of humble beginnings; and

**WHEREAS**, she was the granddaughter of a slave and daughter of a sharecropper, and raised in the Jim Crow South; and

**WHEREAS**, none of which limited her belief in herself or how far she would ascend in life; and

**WHEREAS**, instead, her background appears to have been fuel for her trailblazing life and legacy; and

**WHEREAS**, before serving over two decades as a legislator, Congresswoman Meek was an educator; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically, Congresswoman Meek was:

- 1) an instructor at Bethune Cookman College and its first female basketball coach;
- 2) a Health and Physical Education Instructor at, what is now, Florida A&M University;
- and
- 3) the first Black Professor, Associate Dean, and Assistant to the Vice President at, what is now, Miami Dade College; and

**WHEREAS**, these firsts at institutions of higher learning were just the beginning of Congresswoman Meek shattering glass ceilings; and

**WHEREAS**, after a 30-year career as an educator, Congresswoman Meek pivoted and turned her focus towards politics; and

**WHEREAS**, thereafter, Congresswoman Meek served over 20 years as a Florida legislator and member of the United States Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, she was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives where she served from 1979 to 1983 before serving five terms in the Florida Senate from 1983 through January 1993; and

**WHEREAS**, Congresswoman Meek was the first African American woman elected to the Florida Senate and first Black legislator to serve there in over a century; and

**WHEREAS**, similarly in 1992, when Congresswoman Meek was elected to represent Florida's 17th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives, she was one of three Black Floridians elected to serve in Congress since the 1870s; and

**WHEREAS**, during her five terms in Congress, Congresswoman Meek advocated for legislation to improve the lives of people in Miami-Dade County, including but not limited to matters related to:

- 1) housing, economic development, education, and health care reform;
- 2) gender and racial equality;
- 3) immigration policies, especially as it relates to Haitian immigrants; and
- 4) improving the transit system, airport, and seaport; and

**WHEREAS**, even after her career in Congress ended, Congresswoman Meek's strong will and desire for change did not, and she continued her life in public service; and

**WHEREAS**, thus, in November 2001, the Carrie Meek Foundation (the "Foundation") was established; and

**WHEREAS**, through the Foundation, Congresswoman Meek worked to provide opportunities to improve the quality of life and create opportunities for residents in Miami-Dade County and the larger South Florida community through education, housing, health, and economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout her distinguished career, Congresswoman Meek received honors for her laudable career in public service as both an educator and legislator; and

**WHEREAS**, Congresswoman Meek was an inimitable living legend; and

**WHEREAS**, she will be missed but not forgotten by many, including those she loved and who loved her, those who worked with and for her, those she mentored, and those who admired her from afar; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami mourn the loss and celebrates the life of the iconic trailblazer and glass shattering Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1.**     **Expression of Sympathy.**     The Mayor and City Council hereby express sympathy and condolences to the Meek family on the passing of United States Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek.

**Section 2.**     **Legacy.**     The Mayor and City Council hereby honor the life and legacy of United States Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek.

**Section 3.**     **Direction to City Clerk.**     The Mayor and City Council direct the City Clerk to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the family of United States Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek.

**Section 4.**     **Effective Date.**     This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by a 5-0 vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this 14th day of December, 2021.

  
PHILIPPE BIEN-AIME  
MAYOR

ATTEST :

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
VANESSA JOSEPH, ESQ.  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFFREY H. CAZEAU, ESQ.  
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILWOMAN KASSANDRA TIMOTHE

CO-SPONSORED BY: MAYOR PHILIPPE BIEN-AIME, VICE MAYOR SCOTT GALVIN,  
COUNCILWOMAN MARY ESTIMÉ-IRVIN, COUNCILMAN ALIX DESULME

Moved by: Desulme

Seconded by: Timothe

**Vote:**

Mayor Philippe Bien-Aime  
Vice Mayor Scott Galvin  
Councilwoman Cassandra Timothe, MPA  
Councilwoman Mary Estimé-Irvin  
Councilman Alix Desulme, Ed.D.

<u>X</u>	(Yes)	<u>        </u>	(No)
<u>X</u>	(Yes)	<u>        </u>	(No)
<u>X</u>	(Yes)	<u>        </u>	(No)
<u>X</u>	(Yes)	<u>        </u>	(No)
<u>X</u>	(Yes)	<u>        </u>	(No)