

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-132

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, APPROVING
THE NAMING AND DEDICATION OF THE TOT-LOT AT
THE NORTH MIAMI LIBRARY IN HONOR OF FORMER
LIBRARY DIRECTOR LUCIA MARTINEZ GONZALEZ
AND AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A PLAQUE
TO SO INDICATE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE
DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, Lucia Martinez Gonzalez was born in the small town of Caimito del Gauyabal, Cuba; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, at the age of twelve, Lucia came to the US with her parents and sister as refugees and settled in North Miami; and

WHEREAS, at age 18, eager to see the world, Lucia traveled to Spain and then to California where she obtained her Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of California, Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, Lucia met her husband, Jose Luis, in 1983 while traveling in Venezuela and got married and settled back in North Miami where they raised their children Anna Lucia and Jose Antonio; and

WHEREAS, Lucia now enjoys spending time with her grown children and especially with her grandson, Jose Sebastian; and

WHEREAS, Lucia started her career in library services in 1988 after receiving a Master's in Library & Information Science from the University of South Florida, Tampa, and worked in different capacities for the Miami-Dade Public Library System and the Broward County Library System where she served as Associate Director in charge of Outreach, Family Literacy, and Youth Services before coming to the City of North Miami to become the City's Library Director, July 7, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Lucia is the author of the award-winning children's book: The Bossy Gallito, part of New York Public Library's 100 Picture Books 100 Years. Señor Cat's Romance and Other Favorite Stories from Latin America; and The Storyteller's Candle, winner of the 2009 Belpré Children's Literature Honor Medal and the Jane Addams Children's Book Award; and

WHEREAS, Lucia is also Past-President of REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (2010-11), and is a two-time recipient of Library Journal's Movers & Shakers Award for her contributions to shaping the future of libraries; the 2020-21 President of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a Division of the American Library Association; and the recipient of REFORMA's 2023 Elizabeth Martinez Lifetime Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as North Miami Library Director, Lucia contributed to transforming the library culture in the City by spearheading the renovation of the library facility, the implementation of innovative technologies, and the development of long-lasting, high-impact community programs; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, and with the full support from City Administration and Officials, the Friends of the Library, the library staff, and the community, the North Miami Library became a center of community empowerment, an inclusive social space; and

WHEREAS, Lucia is grateful for her family's life-long support of her professional journey and inspired by the courage and tenacity of her immigrant parents in their search to achieve a better life for their family; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council desire to recognize and honor former library director, Lucia Martinez Gonzalez, by allowing the placement of a plaque naming the North Miami Library Tot-Lot as the "Lucia Martinez Gonzalez Tot-Lot".

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

Section 1. Naming and Dedication of North Miami Library Tot-Lot. The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, hereby approve the naming and dedication of the Tot-Lot at the North Miami Library in honor of Lucia Martinez Gonzalez and authorize the placement of a plaque to so indicate.

Section 2. 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 22nd day of August, 2023.

Alix Desulme
ALIX DESULME, Ed.D.
MAYOR

ATTEST :

J. J.
VANESSA JOSEPH, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

JPH
JEFF P. H. CAZEAU, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILWOMAN KASSANDRA TIMOTHE

Moved by: Charles

Seconded by: Galvin

Vote:

Mayor Alix Desulme, Ed.D.
Vice-Mayor Mary Estimé-Irvin
Councilman Scott Galvin
Councilwoman Kassandra Timothe, MPA
Councilman Pierre Frantz Charles

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