

Dr. Lubby Navarro, School Board Member

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNITION OF THE 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION  
PEDRO PAN**

**COMMITTEE: FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Six decades ago, Cuban parents, fearing indoctrination and a loss of their parental rights, put into action the most basic human right: to choose how their children would live and be educated. They also made the difficult decision of sending their children to a foreign country without them.

From December 1960 to October 1962, more than 14,000 Cuban children arrived alone in the United States. Thus was born what is now known as Operation Pedro Pan, the largest recorded exodus of unaccompanied children into the U.S.

December 26th of 2020 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of Operation Pedro Pan. To commemorate the date, The American Museum of the Cuban Diaspora, in partnership with Operation Pedro Pan Group Inc., is presenting *Operation Pedro Pan: The Cuban Children's Exodus 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit*.

The exhibit explores the journey taken by the children who escaped the prospects of totalitarian forced reeducation programs under Fidel Castro's regime. Upon arriving, the children were taken in by mostly Catholic institutions and relatives while awaiting reunification with their parents. Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh of the Archdiocese of Miami led these efforts.

Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization founded in 1991 by former unaccompanied Cuban children. The American Museum of the Cuban Diaspora was made possible through the *Building Better Communities Bond Program Projects* with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor, and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners. The museum is dedicated to showcasing and documenting the history, culture, and contributions of the Cuban exile community through exhibitions and programming in the arts and humanities.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That the School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida  
Recognize the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Pedro  
Pan