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LTC # **014-2024**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Honorable Mayor Steven Meiner and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Alina T. Hudak, City Manager 

DATE: January 16, 2024

SUBJECT: ESOL and GED Adult Education City Scholarship Update

The purpose of the Letter to Commission is to update you on the status of our partnership with Miami Beach Adult and Community Education Center to provide FREE English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and General Education Development (GED) classes to Miami Beach residents.

At the July 28, 2021 Commission meeting, the City approved a program to support Miami Beach adult education students by providing a \$30 scholarship to cover the registration fee to participate in an ESOL or GED class. During the June 22, 2022 Commission meeting the prior resolution was amended to increase the funding amount by \$6,000, with the total amount of funding not to exceed \$17,700 per school year. Below is a breakdown of Miami Beach adult residents that have utilized the scholarship to access these courses:

Semester	# of Scholarships for Adult Residents	Scholarship Funding Provided
Fall 2020	66	\$1,980
Winter 2021	11	\$330
Winter 2022	102	\$3,060
Spring 2022	243	\$7,290
Fall 2022	198	\$5,940
Winter 2023	181	\$5,430
Spring 2023	188	\$5,640
Fall 2023	191	\$5,730
<b>Total Scholarship Impact</b>	<b>1,180 residents</b>	<b>\$35,400.00</b>

The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course provides English language and literacy instruction for adults whose first language is other than English and who are non-literate or semi-literate in their home language, to increase their ability to communicate in English. The instructional focus is to prepare adult learners to use English for entering the career and technical and/or postsecondary education, employment, and participation in civic life.

The GED course prepares students for academic and personal success through obtaining the necessary skills required to pass the official GED test and earn a State of Florida High School Diploma. This program strives to motivate students not only to obtain a diploma but also to utilize the acquired skills in the workforce and to achieve career and job placement success.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Leslie Rosenfeld, Chief Education Officer.

JG/LDR

 