



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(B)4

TO: Honorable Chairperson
Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed. D. and
Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 8, 2004

FROM: George M. Burgess
County Manager

SUBJECT: Miami-Dade Public Library -
Designating the Florida Collection of
the Miami-Dade Public Library System
the "Helen Muir Florida Collection"

This report is in support of Commissioner Barreiro's resolution to designate the Florida Collection of the Miami-Dade Public Library System as the "Helen Muir Florida Collection".

Helen Muir has been a driving force in libraries since she became President of the Coconut Grove Library Association in 1955. Through her efforts, the Coconut Grove Library joined the Miami Public Library System in 1957. In 1961, she led a campaign that resulted in the construction of a new Coconut Grove Library building and ten years later took on the campaign of creating a united City and County Library System that gave birth to the Miami-Dade Public Library System.

In 1971, she was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Library System on which she served for 28 years. In 1972, Mrs. Muir campaigned tirelessly once again to pass the Decade of Progress Bond Issue that set aside \$34.7 million for the construction of twelve libraries, including three Regional Libraries and a new Main Library. Her career spans seven decades as an accomplished syndicated columnist, book editor, and critically acclaimed Florida author. In 1999, in recognition of her unparalleled advocacy and service to public libraries, she was named Chair Emeritus of the Library Advisory Board. In 2000, the American Library Association named Helen Muir to its Honor Roll and her name is prominently displayed in the State Library of Florida.

The Miami-Dade Public Library System along with the Friends of the Library Advisory Board are in support of recognizing Helen Muir's lifelong dedication to the libraries and designating the Florida Collection as the "Helen Muir Florida Collection".

Alina Tejeda Hudak
Assistant County Manager

