

RESOLUTION NO. 2003- 44

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING H.R. 2538, A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 400 NORTH MIAMI AVENUE IN MIAMI, FLORIDA AS THE “WILKIE D. FERGUSON, JR., UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE”; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, H.R. 2538, sponsored by House of Representative members Alcee Hastings, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Lincoln-Diaz Balart, Mario Diaz-Balart, Peter Deutsch, Corrine Brown, Robert Wexler, Mark Foley, Ander Crenshaw, Allen Boyd, Jeff Miller, Katherine Harris, C.W. Bill Young, Adam H. Putnam, Tom Feeney, Ginny Brown-Waite, Ric Keller, Jim Davis, Porter J. Goss and Kendrick B. Meek purposes to designate the United States courthouse located at 400 North Miami Avenue as the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr., United States Courthouse; and

**WHEREAS**, the late U.S. District Court Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson was an exceptional public servant, jurist and role model and an American success story; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Ferguson’s reputation for fairness and hard work preceded his elevation to the federal bench – the second black federal judge in the Southern District of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, this writer and scholar presided over several significant cases; his judicial legacy included a 1980 Circuit Court ruling that blacks cannot be systematically excluded from a jury; his rulings have also been credited with improving the lives of thousand of disabled persons; in 1996, for example, he ordered the state not to cut disability services by about 40 percent.

**WHEREAS**, Judge Ferguson was an exemplary jurist – experienced, fair, compassionate, knowledgeable and firmly committed to justice.

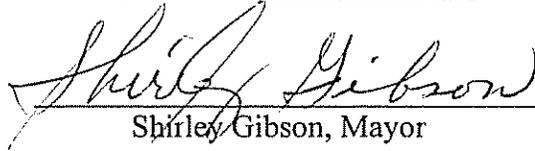
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1:** **Support of H.R. 2538.** The City Council hereby supports supporting H.R. 2538, a bill, to designate the United States Courthouse located at 400 North Miami Avenue in Miami, Florida as the “Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr., United States Courthouse

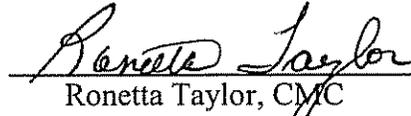
**Section 2:** **Directions to the City Clerk.** The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to United States Congressman Kendrick Meek.

**Section 3:** **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

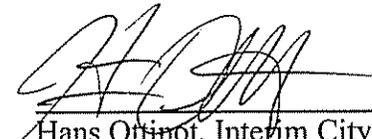
PASSED and ADOPTED this 10 day of December, 2003.

  
Shirley Gibson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Ronetta Taylor, CMC  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFRICIENCY:

  
Hans Otinot, Interim City Attorney

Moved by: Councilman Bratton

Seconded by: Councilwoman King

VOTE:

Mayor Gibson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Vice Mayor Aaron Campbell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman Oscar Braynon, II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilwoman Audrey J. King	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilwoman Barbara Watson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)