

# Proclamation

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



WHEREAS, Derrick Thomas was born January 1, 1967, in Miami, the son of Edith Morgan and Robert Thomas, and

WHEREAS, as an adolescent growing up in the inner city, Derrick Thomas encountered difficulties with the legal system and, at the age of 14, was placed in the Dade Marine Institute, a day treatment program for adjudicated youth, and

WHEREAS, choosing to make positive changes and turn his life around, Derrick Thomas went on to attend South Miami High School, where his excellence on the football field earned him an athletic scholarship to the University of Alabama, and

WHEREAS, after becoming one of the finest football players in University of Alabama history, Derrick Thomas was selected in the first round of the 1989 NFL Draft and signed by the Kansas City Chiefs, and

WHEREAS, Derrick Thomas, who played his entire 11-year career for the Chiefs, is considered one of the best pass rushers of all time and on January 31, 2009, was one of six players selected for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and

WHEREAS, succumbing to injuries sustained in an automobile accident, Derrick Thomas died on February 8, 2000, and

WHEREAS, Derrick Thomas cofounded the Third and Long Foundation to help rescue youth from delinquency, drugs, and crime, and his commitment to helping children who, like him, struggle with reading difficulties spurred the 2002 opening of the Derrick Thomas Academy in Kansas City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESPECTFULLY PROCLAIMED that the life and memory of Derrick Thomas are honored as a true inspiration and a reminder that every child, if provided compassion, nurturing, and guidance, possesses the ability to achieve his or her own measure of greatness.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAIYNE THIS 20th DAY OF January, 2010.

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MAYOR ROBERT L. VERNON