

Betsy H. Kaplan, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO PROMOTE THE "SCHOLASTIC CRIME STOPPERS" PROGRAM IN ALL SCHOOLS

From its inception in September 1981 to December 1998, Crime Stoppers of Miami-Dade County is credited with clearing 18,354 cases that resulted in 4,576 arrests, the recovery of property and narcotics valued at \$74,773,839, and the solving of 439 homicides. During the last calendar year, Crime Stoppers was responsible for clearing 592 cases that resulted in 270 arrests and the recovery of \$2,126,910 in property and \$5,385,845 in narcotics.

Crime Stoppers' tips are received on a telephone TIPS line number that is widely publicized. The telephone line and rewards are funded by the activities of a group of citizens on the Crime Stoppers' Board of Directors, which approves and administers all rewards. In Miami-Dade County, both the Miami-Dade Police Department and the City of Miami Police Department provide detectives to answer the TIPS line. The key to the effectiveness of Crime Stoppers is the guarantee of anonymity.

In 1983, Police Officer Larry Wieda began the Scholastic Crime Stoppers program in Boulder, Colorado. The program allows students to provide anonymous tips about crimes in their schools. If a tip results in solving a crime, the student receives a reward of \$5 to \$100. Statistics show that the motivating factor for student tips rarely is financial. The Scholastic Crime Stopper program allows students to take action against victimization and crime, along with promoting school spirit, pride, and responsibility.

The Scholastic Crime Stoppers program can be implemented in the district's schools at no cost. Because of the program's proven effectiveness, it is recommended that the Board direct the Superintendent of Schools to promote the "Scholastic Crime Stoppers" program in all schools.

ACTION PROPOSED BY That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the
BETSY H. KAPLAN: Superintendent of Schools to promote the "Scholastic Crime Stoppers" program in all schools.

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