

October 10, 2001

Manty Sabatés Morse, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FLORIDA, INSTRUCT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AND THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON IMPROVING STUDENT SAFETY BY INCREASING THE K9 UNIT OR CONTRACTING AN OUTSIDE AGENCY

In light of recent terrorists' attacks on our population and institutions, and given the importance of our geographic location as a center of international trade and commerce, and the proximity of our state to a terrorist-harboring country like Cuba, only ninety miles away, public safety, and in our case, student safety, has become a priority issue that needs to be addressed immediately by our school system.

As the fourth largest public school system in our country, we can become a prime target for one of these terrorists' attacks in the future. If recent attacks have proven anything, it is the importance of law enforcement and the need for preparedness.

Beefing up our present K9 unit is one area which can help our system identify those individuals who can possibly inflict harm and pain on our community. Presently, our K9 unit consists of two dogs cross-trained for patrol utility and narcotics. If confronted with an incident involving a bomb-scare, our school system has to rely on the services of our county authorities which are not always the most reliable in answering our calls for help.

That is why, it would be advisable to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether our present K9 unit should be increased to include dogs trained for explosives' detection or maybe contract with an outside agency that provides the service. If the latter option is adopted, an RFP process would ensue.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MANTY SABATÉS MORSE:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, instruct the Superintendent of Schools and the Chief of Police to conduct a feasibility study on improving student safety by increasing the K9 unit or contracting an outside agency