

Frank J. Bolaños, Member

SUBJECT: EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT CAMPAIGN

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

For the second year in a row, City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, in cooperation with the IRS, has developed a comprehensive outreach plan to increase awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC). This initiative is now part of a multi-agency effort and will include making the city's Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET) Offices available for free tax preparation to residents and establishing a EIC hotline beginning January 15.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools directly affects the lives of nearly 500,000 students and over 40,000 employees, all of whom improve our community on a daily basis through the education they impart or obtain in our public schools.

The EIC can be claimed by persons earning less than a certain income, based on family size, and can provide a credit from \$380 up to \$4,200. As beneficial as these credits are, the Internal Revenue Service estimates more than 70,000 taxpayers qualified for the credit but did not file to receive it in Miami-Dade County. Our own Payroll department reports that only 21 Miami-Dade School employees are currently benefiting from this credit.

It is in the best interests of the Miami-Dade School Board to continue to support this campaign by increasing awareness of the EIC to parents and employees at all schools. Furthermore, as the largest employer in the community, the School Board also bears the responsibility of improving the quality of life for a large sector of the working-class citizenry.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

FRANK J. BOLAÑOS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida endorse the Earned Income Tax Campaign and direct the Superintendent to support the multi-agency campaign by allowing for the distribution of EIC information to parents and employees.