

Mercedes Tournal, Chief Education Officer
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER
SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR SPIRIT CITY ACADEMY, INC., ON
BEHALF OF SPIRIT CITY ACADEMY AND AUTHORIZATION TO
NEGOTIATE A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR A TERM OF FIVE
YEARS**

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

As established in School Board Rule 6Gx13-6A-1.47, Charter Schools (K-12), Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) received charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations in the community.

On January 16, 2004, M-DCPS Charter School District Review Committee met to review the application for Spirit City Academy and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for approval of the application to the Superintendent of Schools.

The charter school proposes to serve a maximum of 400 students in grades six through eight, with a maximum of 250 students in its first year of operation, commencing with the 2004-2005 school year, at a facility to be identified at a later time.

The following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Dr. Judy Harris-Looby, Educational Administrator; A. J. Melton, Corrections Officer and Community Activist; Nekesia Paschal, Educator; Michael L. Lawrence, Financial Consultant; and Gennie Brown, Educator.

Any pending issues identified by the Charter School District Review Committee in the recommended application, including minimizing the impact on district schools that are under-enrolled, will be addressed satisfactorily in the development of the charter school contractual agreement. The charter school contractual agreement will be submitted for School Board consideration at a subsequent meeting at which time there will be a public hearing to provide for community input.

Copies of the charter school application will be transmitted to School Board Members under separate cover and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. approve the application for Spirit City Academy, Inc., on behalf of Spirit City Academy; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement for a term of five years, commencing with the 2004-2005 school year through the conclusion of the 2008-2009 school year, which reflects the contents of the application as approved by the School Board.

RKF/MB/CR:dcr