

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Member

**SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE NATIONAL "WALK OUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL DAY" ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2004**

**COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The eighth annual national "Walk Our Children to School Day", planned for Wednesday, October 6, 2004, promotes pedestrian safety education and awareness for the benefit of students across the nation that walk to school every day. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) unanimously endorsed this event at its May 27, 2004 meeting, and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee endorsed the event at its meeting on May 26, 2004. This event is also sponsored nationwide by the National SAFE KIDS Coalition.

According to the MPO, two hundred seventy-two (272) children under the age of fourteen (14) were injured, and three (3) children were killed in 2002, as a direct result of pedestrian accidents in Miami-Dade County, Florida. These numbers represent a decrease in injuries as compared to previous years.

Similar to last year's event, the national "Walk Our Children to School Day" is an exercise in safety involving students, parents, and schools to make pedestrian safety a priority for all children.

Listed below is a summary of the many benefits this event has to offer:

- "Walk Our Children to School Day" promotes safe walking skills. The event increases the awareness of safe walking skills and safe routes to schools for both students and parents.
- "Walk Our Children to School Day" promotes physical health and activity. This event increases the awareness that walking is an exercise promoting good health and physical fitness.
- "Walk Our Children to School Day" promotes concern for the environment. Walking to school helps to reduce school-related traffic and pollution, which promotes a cleaner and healthier environment for everyone.
- "Walk Our Children to School Day" promotes increased driver awareness for

pedestrians around schools. This event helps to reinforce the importance of reducing traffic speed and obeying the school speed zone limits around schools.

In conjunction with this program, the District is also developing a "Safe Routes to School" pilot program for elementary schools. This program will consist of the development of criteria for identification of a "Safe Route" to each selected school, the evaluation of that route for possible safety enhancements and the development of a Global Imaging System based map of that route for distribution to parents.

To this end, the Board is asked to join in promoting student pedestrian safety and awareness on national "Walk Our Children to School Day," on October 6, 2004.

**ACTION PROPOSED  
BY MS. PERLA  
TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, join in promoting student pedestrian safety and direct the Superintendent to encourage all Miami-Dade County Public Schools to participate in the national "Walk Our Children to School Day" on October 6, 2004.