

School Police and District Security  
Gerald L. Darling, Chief of Police

**SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF THE OSSI SYSTEM, NECESSARY TRAINING AND LABOR BY APPROVING THE RELEASE OF \$525,000 OF A DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TECHNOLOGY GRANT AWARDED TO THE MIAMI-DADE SCHOOL POLICE DEPARTMENT IN 2002**

**COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

**BACKGROUND**

Authorization is requested from the School Board to purchase the Open Software Solutions Incorporated (OSSI) systems software programs and the accompanying OSSI training and implementation services needed to upgrade the School Police Automated Reporting (SPAR) system. The Department of Justice Technology Grant funds will pay for the OSSI software, personnel resources and services required to train School Police personnel and fully implement the system. The awarded grant funds will be forfeited if not expended by December 31, 2004.

The purchase of OSSI will enhance the School Police incident process by adding functional capabilities that do not exist in the School District. The OSSI Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) module will enable the data input from incident calls to be immediately transmitted upon dispatch to school police officers using the OSSI Mobile Field Reporting (MFR) module. The officers will immediately access the incident information through a secure wireless computer network thereby reducing duplicate input and moving away from paper-based incident reporting processes. Additional incident information added by the officer will be transmitted for quality control review and to the OSSI Records Management System (RMS) for storage, reporting and SPAR system updates. This upgrade will reduce the incident process time and support school administrator requirements to shorten the incident process cycle time.

The OSSI system modules CAD, MFR and RMS are internationally and nationally proven technology products that also perform daily critical functions for several locally based police agencies (Coral Gables Police Department, Pinecrest Police Department, and North Miami Beach Police Department). The OSSI system will increase the District safety by making offender historical information available to School Police enroute to or while processing incidents. The OSSI system comprehensively tracks and reports on school police events and criminal activities. Additionally, the features and capabilities of this system will enhance the ability of the School Police Department to respond to emerging Homeland Security requirements and potential threats.

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**COST**

Per the Information Technology (IT) Strategic Project Portfolio requirement, this project was presented to the IT Steering Committee, reviewed in June, 2004 and recommended for implementation. Staff has identified all OSSI software and labor associated with the upgrades presented on this item:

\$525,000 – is the total cost of the OSSI system which includes software programs, OSSI training and implementation labor. The balance of the grant funds will be utilized to purchase laptop computers for each police officer and required server hardware through existing term bids. Timeline for completion of this project is August , 2005.

A \$1,000,000 Department of Justice Law Enforcement Technology Grant appropriation is included in the tentative budget for FY04-05 under Fund 0420, Object 5640, Location 9913, Program 3848, Function 7900.

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County authorize the purchase of the OSSI system, necessary training and labor by approving the release of \$525,000 of a Department of Justice Technology Grant awarded to the Miami-Dade School Police Department in 2002.

GLD:jc