

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

SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ACCEPT AND SUPPORT THE MIAMI-DADE SCHOOLS POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CIVIL CITATION PROGRAM, INTENDED TO ENSURE ELIGIBLE FIRST AND SECOND TIME JUVENILE OFFENDERS THAT COMMIT IDENTIFIED MISDEMEANOR OFFENSES, ARE PROPERLY ASSESSED AND RECEIVE APPROPRIATE INTERVENTION SERVICES IN LIEU OF ARREST

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

The Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (MDSPD) is committed to providing the highest quality service to the students and staff of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). The Department has proposed an initiative intended to provide continued assistance to the entire school community and enhance the welfare of the children. This proposed initiative is in line with the District's mission to provide innovative programs and services designed to support all of the educational needs of the school system, and should reduce the amount of juveniles coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

The plan involves the creation of a Civil Citation Program, as authorized by the Florida State Statutes, and with the consent of the Circuit Chief Judge, State Attorney, and the Public Defender. The program will allow M-DSPD officers to issue a civil citation, in lieu of arrest, to eligible first and second time juvenile offenders, not actively enrolled in any other diversion program, who are Miami-Dade County Public School Students and who have admitted to committing an identified misdemeanor offense. These offenses will be identified and agreed upon by the Chief of Police, the State Attorney, and the Public Defender. The program is intended to ensure these juveniles are properly assessed and receive appropriate intervention services, including; family counseling, drug testing, mental health treatment and services, and up to fifty (50) community service hours. Only first and second time misdemeanor offenders that are not currently participating in any other diversion program will be eligible for the Civil Citation Program, which will require parent/guardian consent for participation.

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The Miami-Dade County Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) will provide the assessment and refer the juvenile and their parent/guardian to community based organizations, as required. The JAC will also monitor all services and sanctions and report back to MDSPD upon completion of the program. Additionally, the implementation of a Civil Citation Program will enable MDSPD officers to remain on campus in instances that would otherwise result in a juvenile being transported to the JAC. This anticipated increase of police presence on campus will enhance the safety of school sites throughout the District. The effectiveness of this program will be evaluated upon the conclusion of the 2005-06 school year.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, accept and support the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department's Civil Citation Program intended to ensure eligible first and second time juvenile misdemeanor offenders, not actively enrolled in any other diversion program, that commit identified offenses, be properly assessed and receive appropriate intervention services in lieu of arrest as authorized by Florida State Statutes.