

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH PALMETTO HOMES INC. FOR JOB TRAINING AND JOB SHADOWING FOR THE PERIOD FROM JUNE 1, 2008 THROUGH MAY 31, 2009

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF GRANT DOLLARS

During the Board Meeting of February 13, 2008, authorization was given to accept the award in the approximate amount of \$2,000,000, from the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), Employment and Training Administration, to fund expansion of the Miami Partnership for Action in Communities Taskforce (MPACT) under the Youthful Offender-Registered Apprenticeship, Alternative Education and Replication Program, for the grant period of December 1, 2007 through May 31, 2009. The purpose of the USDOL grant funding is to replicate or expand effective programs around the country that serve juvenile offenders. MPACT is one of six grantees nationally under the highly competitive program, which represents a new funding source for the District. The Board Item C-80 was intended to expand MPACT which focuses on education, community involvement, mentoring, social intervention, personal and social responsibility, as well as job skills development. MPACT is managed by the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department and supports the Superintendent's initiative to increase academic performance for all students.

The USDOL grant supports a six-month planning period and one-year implementation for MPACT program expansion from seven schools to 13 additional schools. The schools were identified based on the schools' dropout rates, as well as poverty, unemployment, and crime statistics of the surrounding neighborhoods.

The participating schools are: Miami Norland Senior, North Miami Beach Senior, North Miami Senior, Miami Central Senior, Miami Northwestern Senior, Miami Edison Senior, Miami Jackson Senior, Booker T. Washington Senior, Miami Edison Middle, Miami Killian Senior, Miami Southridge Senior, Douglas MacArthur-South, and Homestead Senior.

At the February 13, 2008 School Board meeting, Agenda Item C-80 was approved; this item authorized the acceptance of a grant award, in the amount of \$2,000,000, from the USDOL for MPACT for the term of December 1, 2007 to May 31, 2009.

The Program MPACT includes the following five key elements:

1. Mobilizing the Community: bringing together law enforcement, schools community organizations, citizens and youth.
2. Intervening with At-Risk Youth: including in-school and after-school programming, mentoring, individual and family counseling, life skills training, and outreach to youth displaying high risk behavior.
3. Providing Career Path Opportunities: offering education, vocational training, job training placement, and job placement services.
4. Suppressing Criminal Activity: collaborating with community agencies for targeted police support operations.
5. Improving Organizational Structure: sharing information, enhancing case management, establishing multi-disciplinary coordination, and training among community partner agencies.

The Professional Services Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021 reviewed this contractual agreement on May 1, 2008, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Requests for Proposals be granted by the Committee because the contractor provides specific expertise in providing on the job training and mentoring for select school and non school program participants.

Authorization is being requested to enter into a contractual agreement with Palmetto Homes, Inc., in the amount of \$140,800. Services will include training and supervision of students referred by MPACT for: on the job training, job shadowing, entry level training and exposure to residential building and documentation of individual progress of the participants as they are instructed and prepared for entry into apprenticeships and trades courses in the residential building industry.

In addition, Palmetto Homes Inc. will provide stipends and incentives to students who are not enrolled in Dade County Public Schools, but who successfully meet all the requirements of the on-the-job training benchmarks in accordance with the grant application. The grant proposal to the USDOL was submitted in May 2007 and Palmetto Homes, Inc. was listed as a partner that would be instrumental in completing the proposed outcome measurements of the grant.

The Founder and CEO of Palmetto Homes, Inc. is Mr. Ariovistus Lundy. Mr. Lundy, who is an awarded Dade Partner, secured the initial funds for the previous Gang-Free Schools and Communities "On the Job Training Pilot" through his relationship with the Empowerment Trust. With these funds MPACT was able to employ 20 admitted gang involved youth, and assist in keeping them off the streets during the summer, weekends and after school. Through the mentoring and training partnership between MPACT and Palmetto Homes, Inc. students have had life changing experiences and have found successful alternatives to criminal activities.

The appropriation for the partnership is through the USDOL grant for \$2,000,000 and the appropriation of the funds to Palmetto Homes, Inc. is of no cost to the District and requires no matching funds or contributions necessary for this item.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorizes the Superintendent to:

1. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021 based on specific expertise;
2. enter into a contractual agreement with Palmetto Homes Inc., in the amount of \$140,800 for Palmetto Homes, Inc. to supervise and train youth for On the Job Training during the summer and after school in accordance with the grant application, for the period of June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009; and
3. extend and amend the amount of the contractual agreement as authorized through official notification from the granting agencies in order to complete the goals of the program or in the event of a no cost extension granted by the grantee.