

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL SAFETY FUNDING

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, & GOV'T RELATIONS

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE STUDENT SAFETY AND THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

In the April Board meeting, funding to the Citizen's Crime Watch of Miami-Dade was cut unjustly. The Citizen's Crime Watch of Miami-Dade has already provided over half of the contracted services for which they were contracted by this School district to perform, and have not received compensation for those services already administered. Therefore, to deny this organization the necessary contractually agreed funding for the services they have provided is completely unjust. Furthermore, it is unconscionable that the Miami-Dade School Board would cut funding to public safety, while at the same time funding a marketing program, which sends a the wrong message to the community that the purpose of Miami-Dade Public Schools is to promote image over substance. The substance and foundation of building strong community relations skills is not through marketing, but through meaningful partnerships with community stakeholders such as the Citizen's Crime Watch of Miami-Dade that have invested in the core of our educational mission of building men and women of character through programs such as Youth Crime Watch.

Furthermore, the shifting of police officers from 12 month employees to 10 month employees, as well as the delay in the implementation of the Tactical Emergency Medical Support personnel, while the marketing budget remains untouched is an indication of the mixed priorities of this Administration, where public safety issues are ranked in importance below the marketing department.

In response, it is the duty of this board to place the safety of our students, and school sites as a top priority by reestablishing funding to Citizen's Crime Watch of Miami-Dade, and implementing the incorporation of TEMS to respond to emergency incidents that threaten the safety of our public schools through the available funding given to the marketing department.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, directs the superintendent to redirect funds allocated to the marketing department for the purposes of funding the contractual agreement with Citizen's Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County from November 1, 2007 to November 1, 2008 for the full amount of the contractual agreement of \$114,000, as well as direct the superintendent to enter into negotiations with existing governmental entities for the purposes of contracting tactical emergency medical support personnel as per the TEMS feasibility study.