

Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-91 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING JULY 2009 AS SWIMMING POOL SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Each year, families experience pool tragedies, including drowning and submersion incidents, which are preventable. Drowning is a major cause of accidents that result in serious injury and death in children. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, nearly 300 children under the age of five drown in pools and spas each year and about 3,000 children under the age of five suffer pool or spa-related injuries that require emergency room treatment. Most victims experience permanent disability, including brain damage.

Children under the age of two account for two-thirds of pool and spa-related deaths and injuries, with 80 percent of drowning fatalities occurring in residential settings. Residential settings include the child's home, a family or a friend's home, or a neighbor's home. There are important basic safety precautions to prevent swimming pool accidents, which can occur suddenly and without warning. To prevent drowning, children should never be left unsupervised near a pool; residential pools should have a four-foot barrier, such as a fence with self-closing and self-latching gates, and precautions should be taken to avoid entrapment as the suction from a pool or spa drain is powerful enough to trap an adult under water. A pool or spa with a broken, loose, or missing drain cover should never be used.

On December 19, 2008, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, enacted to prevent the tragic and hidden hazard of drain entrapments and eviscerations in pools and spas, went into effect. The law established a federal swimming pool and spa drain cover standard to ensure pools are equipped with the proper anti-entrapment drain covers. Pools and spas that pose the greatest risk of entrapment include children's public wading pools, pools designed specifically for young children, and in-ground spas.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-91 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing July 2009 as Swimming Pool Safety Awareness Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-91
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING
JULY 2009 AS SWIMMING POOL SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, each year, families experience pool tragedies, including drowning and submersion incidents, which are preventable; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, nearly 300 children under the age of five drown in pools and spas each year and about 3,000 children under the age of five suffer pool or spa-related injuries that require emergency room treatment; and

WHEREAS, children under the age of two account for two-thirds of pool and spa-related deaths and injuries, with 80 percent of drowning fatalities occurring in residential settings, including the child's home, a family or a friend's home, or a neighbor's home; and

WHEREAS, to prevent drowning, children should never be left unsupervised near a pool, residential pools should have a four-foot barrier, and precautions should be taken to avoid entrapment; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, enacted on December 19, 2008, established a federal swimming pool and spa drain cover standard to ensure pools are equipped with the proper anti-entrapment drain covers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-91 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing July 2009 as Swimming Pool Safety Awareness Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this fifteenth day of July, A.D. 2009

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary