

Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of March 9, 2011

March 3, 2011

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO COORDINATE WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE MIAMI PASSPORT AGENCY TO ORGANIZE 'MIAMI PASSPORT AGENCY SCHOOL DAYS'

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The US Department of State has 27 passport offices throughout the United States that handle citizen passport requests. Those offices process approximately 16 million passports every year and are very critical for citizens who need prompt service.

Miami-Dade County is fortunate to have a passport office which processes requests from Florida, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. The Miami Passport Agency is one of the busiest offices and handles almost 300,000 passport requests each year. The office also has units that cover media relations, congressional relations, and customer service. Due to the heightened attention given to national security and identity theft, the Miami Passport Agency's anti-fraud/law enforcement liaison unit is vital to combating both issues.

During times of emergency and disaster, the Miami Passport Agency also serves in a humanitarian capacity to assist with the evacuation of American citizens and government personnel. In January 2010, following the earthquake in Haiti, the Agency made daily trips to Haiti for five weeks to assist with the evacuation of more than 16,000 American citizens, some of whom lost all of their belongings and identification in the disaster. Miami Passport Agency Director Ryan Dooley exhibited exemplary leadership during this period and his staff was equally inspiring by working remotely in Orlando, Homestead, and Miami International Airport to process returning Americans.

As a part of their community outreach efforts, the Agency hosts special 'passport application days' for police officers, firefighters, and other organizations that serve the public. This item requests that the Superintendent coordinate with Director Dooley to organize 'Miami Passport Agency School Days' during which time district and school personnel will be able to submit applications for passports.

Replacement
H-19

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to coordinate with the Director of the Miami Passport Agency to organize 'Miami Passport Agency School Days'