

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL "WALK TO SCHOOL DAY", AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "WALKSAFE" PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM CURRICULUM, DURING THE WEEK OF THE EVENT

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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

International "Walk to School Day," planned for October 9, 2013, promotes pedestrian safety education and awareness for the benefit of students who walk to school. Global observance is designed to promote awareness about pedestrian safety among students, parents, and schools. The program reinforces safe routes to schools and safe walking skills, as well as walking as exercise to combat childhood obesity. The program is environmentally friendly because it reduces pollution generated by school-related traffic, and reinforces the importance of reducing traffic speed and obeying the school zone limits.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee have endorsed the "Walk to School Day" event, which is also sponsored nationwide by the National SAFE KIDS Coalition. According to the Florida Department of Transportation Safety Office, 104 children under the age of 15 were injured and two killed in traffic crashes in Miami-Dade County during 2011. These numbers represent a dramatic decrease in injuries; however, there was a slight increase in fatalities, as compared to 2010.

It is also recommended that the "WalkSafe" pedestrian safety program curriculum be implemented to coincide with the "Walk to School Day" event. "WalkSafe" was created and implemented by the Ryder Trauma Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Medical Center to reduce pediatric pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Both programs are operated at no cost to the District.

To help strengthen this awareness campaign, the School District has also partnered with the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX). During the Walk Safe events, MDX will distribute 80,000 informational booklets titled, "*Kids' Guide to Road Safety*," a publication by Highlights magazine, to third-grade students at appropriate schools throughout the District.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the International "Walk to School Day", and implement the "WalkSafe" pedestrian safety program curriculum during the week of the event.