

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-116 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS WEEK, NOVEMBER 11-17, 2013, AS SPEARHEADED BY THE DARRELL GWYNN FOUNDATION

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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

The Darrell Gwynn Foundation (Foundation) was founded in 2002 by Darrell Gwynn, a professional race car driver, who was injured on the race circuit and became paralyzed. The Foundation is dedicated to providing awareness, prevention, and support, and also funds research to ultimately find a cure for paralysis. Tragically, when a spinal cord injury occurs, the person suffers permanent sensory loss and loss of muscle control. The Foundation's mission is to educate the community, particularly high school students, about spinal cord injuries by providing facts and statistics about such injuries, as well as common-sense ways to prevent them.

The Foundation is the leading advocate of Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week in Florida, which this year was officially designated by the State Legislature to be observed the week of November 11-17. During this special week, the Foundation partners with other community organizations to spread awareness. Activities include speaking at high schools, broadcasting public service announcements and participating in a variety of high profile events. At the classroom level, the Foundation developed an innovative program for high school students, which includes a video titled "*It Could Happen to You.*" The video contains personal stories shared by young adults, who as teenagers, suffered spinal cord injuries due to reckless behavior. This program presents a wonderful opportunity to impact high school students, not only during Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week, but during the school year with an emphasis on key events, such as Teen Driver Safety Week and prom activities.

The School Board commends the Darrell Gwynn Foundation for its commitment to education, and to the well-being of the students, parents, and families of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-116 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week, November 11-17, 2013, as spearheaded by the Darrell Gwynn Foundation.

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-116
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS WEEK, NOVEMBER 11-17,
2013, AS SPEARHEADED BY THE DARRELL GWYNN FOUNDATION**

WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation was founded in 2002 by Darrell Gwynn, a professional race car driver who was injured on the race circuit and became paralyzed; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation is dedicated to providing awareness, prevention, and support, and also funds research to ultimately find a cure for paralysis. The organization's mission is to educate the community, particularly high school students, about spinal cord injuries by providing facts and statistics about such injuries, as well as common-sense ways to prevent them; and

WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation is the leading advocate of Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week in Florida, which this year was officially designated to be observed November 11-17 by the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Darrell Gwynn Foundation developed an innovative program for high school students which included a video titled "*It Could Happen to You.*" The video contains personal stories shared by young adults, who as teenagers, suffered spinal cord injuries due to reckless behavior; and

WHEREAS, this program presents a wonderful opportunity to impact high school students, not only during Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week, but during the school year with an emphasis on key events, such as Teen Driver Safety Week and prom activities; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends the Darrell Gwynn Foundation for its commitment to education and to the well-being of the students, parents, and families of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-116 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Week, November 11-17, 2013, as spearheaded by the Darrell Gwynn Foundation.

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

Presented this sixteenth day of October, A.D. 2013

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary