

Dr. Marta Pérez Wurtz, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-019 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING RITA RODRIGUEZ

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Every year, automobile accidents on Krome Avenue claim many lives, prompting the street to be dubbed “Killer Krome”. Other streets may have more accidents, but none are as deadly as Krome, a two-lane road that stretches for 37 miles with a justifiable reputation for danger. Between 2008 and 2012, there have been 1,800 accidents including 28 fatalities on Krome Avenue.

On January 19, 2014, 22-year old Anthony Rodriguez was driving home from a party with a friend, Gabriel Rodriguez, when their car was struck head-on by an oncoming vehicle. They were both killed instantly.

Anthony’s mother, Rita Rodriguez, put her grief aside and immediately embarked on a mission to bring awareness of the dangers of Krome Avenue. She lobbies municipal and state governments to fund long-awaited safety projects for the road. Thanks to the efforts of Rita Rodriguez and Lost Lives of Krome, the organization she founded, work has already commenced on some of those projects.

Rita Rodriguez and Lost Lives of Krome work to educate the public and to help prevent more fatalities, which sadly continue to increase. In 2014 alone, more than 12 people lost their lives on Krome.

Rita Rodriguez and her organization are now working on the construction of a monument to serve as a memorial to the lives lost on Krome Avenue.

Our community owes a debt of gratitude to Rita Rodriguez for advocating for the safety of all. She is to be commended for her efforts.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTA PÉREZ WURTZ: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-019 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Ms. Rita Rodriguez for her work in our community.