

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK, OCTOBER 16-22, 2016, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF YEAR-ROUND SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES AT ALL DISTRICT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The U.S. Department of Transportation reports that distracted driving has become a dangerous epidemic on the nation's roadways, contributing to thousands of traffic fatalities, and nearly half a million injuries each year. Distracted driving activities include, but are not limited to, using a cell phone and electronic text messaging. Reaching for a phone, dialing and texting increases your crash risk by three times. Texting is the most alarming and prevalent distracted driving activity among our youngest and most inexperienced drivers, as evidenced by surveys showing that 71% of high school students have sent a text while driving. Young adults are not alone; statistics also reveal that at any given moment, over 660,000 vehicles are being driven daily by someone using a hand-held cell phone.

The School District participates in National Teen Driver Safety Week, as part of its annual efforts to help bring awareness and reduce distracted driving. This year, the national event will run from October 16-22, 2016. This safety initiative encourages parents, young drivers, lawmakers and educators to work together to change risky driving behaviors at the high school age level and help save lives across the country.

For the past several years, the School District has partnered with the Florida Department of Transportation in its "Put It Down" Campaign, which helps educate teens and the general public on the dangers of all forms of distracted driving. The School District is one of 93 community entities that have rallied to speak in one voice to help strengthen awareness efforts. The campaign will also emphasize the No Texting While Driving law. In the month leading up to the Teen Driver Safety events, weekly E-mail blasts and web banners with important related safety messages will be transmitted to all appropriate schools and employees via the District's portal/website.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 16- 22, 2016, and encouragement of year-round safe driving practices at all District high schools.