

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member
 Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member } Added

SUBJECT: ENDORSE THE CITY OF MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE DISTRICT'S ONGOING EFFORTS TOWARDS PROTECTING OUR YOUTH BY RAISING AWARENESS OF FENTANYL AND OTHER DANGEROUS NARCOTICS

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COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

On June 23rd 2017, a 10 year-old boy was pronounced dead at Jackson Memorial Hospital, due to a fentanyl overdose. He is the youngest reported victim affected by the lethal drug. The effects of fentanyl on the body can be severely harmful, fatal, and usually ends with respiratory failure. Due to this incident in Miami-Dade County, it is imperative that we strengthen awareness of dangerous narcotics and increase our efforts of educating our youth on fentanyl.

At a recent news conference for the case of the 10 year-old boy, Miami Police Chief Rodolfo Llanes announced that City of Miami Police Department (MPD) is reinforcing their awareness campaign that was established in September 2016. MPD plans to expose young children in elementary schools to the topic of drug safety and the dangers of substance abuse. Additionally, in light of the recent tragedy, Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (MDSPD) has committed to coordinating and providing this law related education program titled "Youth Exposure of Opioids and Drugs" for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year with MPD. Both police departments will provide these drug presentations to elementary school aged students on the effects of fentanyl and will be informing parents of the dangers of the drugs during community events.

It is imperative that MPD and MDSPD and other police departments work together to educate students, especially those in primary education, to prevent likely situations from reoccurring. Through learning and precaution, the number of fatalities will lessen amongst Miami-Dade's youth while also guiding students to make safe choices in the future.

This item seeks to endorse and promote awareness of drug abuse in order to prevent the risk of tragedies in the case of exposure amongst young children.

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ACTION PROPOSED BY LUBBY NAVARRO:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the law related educational program titled "Youth Exposure of Opioids and Drugs" which will be taught by the City of Miami Police Department and Miami-Dade Schools Police Department. This program supports the District's ongoing efforts towards protecting our youth by raising awareness of fentanyl and other dangerous narcotics.