

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE NATIONAL 'WALK OUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL DAY' ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2001

The fifth annual national "Walk Our Children to School Day," planned for Tuesday, October 2, 2001, promotes pedestrian safety education and awareness for the benefit of students that walk to school every day across the nation. Once again, the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) unanimously endorsed this event for countywide participation at its July 26, 2001, MPO Board meeting. This event is also sponsored nationwide by the National SAFE KIDS Coalition, and was locally endorsed by the MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

According to the MPO, last year three hundred and thirteen children under the age of fourteen were injured, and five children were killed, as a direct result of pedestrian accidents in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Unfortunately, these statistics represent an increase in the number of juvenile pedestrian accidents and deaths that occurred in 1999.

Similar to last year's event, the national "Walk Our Children to School Day" is an exercise in safety involving students, parents, and schools to make pedestrian safety a priority for all children.

Listed below is a summary of the many benefits this event has to offer:

- "Walk Our Children to School Day" promotes safe walking skills. The event increases the awareness of safe walking skills and safe routes to schools for both students and parents.
- "Walk Our Children to School Day" promotes physical health and activity. This event increases the awareness that walking is an exercise promoting good health and physical fitness.
- "Walk Our Children to School Day" promotes concern for the environment. Walking to school helps to reduce school related traffic and pollution, which promotes a cleaner and healthier environment for everyone.

- “Walk Our Children to School Day” promotes increased driver awareness for pedestrians around schools. This event helps to reinforce the importance of reducing traffic speed and obeying the school speed zone limits around schools.

To this end, the Board is asked to join in promoting student pedestrian safety and awareness on national “Walk Our Children to School Day,” October 2, 2001.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, join in promoting student pedestrian safety and direct the Superintendent to encourage all Miami-Dade County public schools to participate in the national “Walk Our Children to School Day” on October 2, 2001.