

Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: TO INFORM THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT THE CITY OF MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM THE MIAMI-DADE SCHOOLS POLICE DEPARTMENT BY INVOKING MUTUAL AID. THIS ACTION IS PART OF AN OVERALL EFFORT BY MPD TO ASSEMBLE THE NECESSARY LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES TO ENSURE THAT THE FREE TRADE AREAS OF THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE WILL BE A SAFE AND PEACEFUL EVENT

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

In December 1994, Miami hosted the Summit of the Americas. This event resulted in an agreement to unite the economies of the Western Hemisphere into a single free trade agreement. The heads of state and government of the 34 democracies in the region agreed to construct a Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA), in which barriers to trade and investment would be progressively eliminated.

The City of Miami will be hosting FTAA Ministerial meetings from November 16 - 21, 2003, in downtown Miami. Although this event is expected to be a catalyst for positive economic stimulation in the South Florida area, it will be one of the most demanding challenges for the entire local law enforcement community in recent history.

In order to ensure a safe and peaceful event, the Miami Police Department (MPD) has invoked Mutual Aid of its law enforcement partners throughout South Florida. This is necessary as the personnel resources needed far exceed those MPD can provide. A specific request for assistance has been made of local police agencies, including the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department. The attached letter from Chief John Timoney is provided for your review.

The Miami-Dade County Public School District is in the process of identifying needs and contingencies wherein we can provide and maintain a safe and secure learning environment, while simultaneously responding to the needs of our responding law enforcement partners in Miami-Dade County.

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive the information on the overall effort to assemble the necessary law enforcement resources to ensure that the FTAA Ministerial meetings will be safe and peaceful events; and
 2. Authorize the Superintendent to take whatever steps necessary to ensure the safety of students, employees, District facilities, and the community during the FTAA Ministerial meetings, November 16-21, 2003.

Revised

Added

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