

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ACCEPT AND FUND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OUTLINED IN THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION FOR THE MIAMI-DADE SCHOOLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

On October 23, 2002, the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorized the Superintendent to examine the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation Process for the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (MDSPD).

A feasibility study was conducted and the most appropriate and cost-effective methods were examined. There are identifiable costs associated with the accreditation process, (staffing, equipment and office space) and they are included in the report. The actual cost is estimated at \$213,397. There will also be anticipated but yet to be identified expenses related to the agency's self-assessment.

The Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (MDSPD) would benefit greatly by participating in the accreditation process. As standards are implemented and raised, MDSPD will ensure the quality of service provided is at the highest level. Accreditation can also positively impact potential liability when action is taken, or service is provided, consistent with standards that are universally tested and accepted.

By engaging in the accreditation process, all facets of a productive and successful police agency can be examined. Deficiencies will be noted and corrective actions implemented to ensure MDSPD is operating at the most effective and efficient level possible. Furthermore, the accreditation process is in direct correlation with recommendations and suggestions made by OPPAGA as related to efficiency and effectiveness. Many of the OPPAGA suggestions can be addressed during the accreditation process.

The accreditation process can be both time consuming and labor intensive in its preparation and implementation. It is expected to take two to five years. It should be viewed and accepted as an investment in the quality of service expected by administration, staff, students and parents.

The feasibility study will be transmitted to the Board under separate cover.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to accept and fund the recommendations outlined in the feasibility study for the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department.