

November 4, 2003

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer  
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:       REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR THE UNITED PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE 8.5 SQUARE MILE AREA, INC., ON BEHALF OF LAS PALMAS CHARTER SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS**

**COMMITTEE:    EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

As established in School Board Rule 6Gx13-6A-1.47, Charter Schools (K-12), Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) received charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations in the community.

On October 9, 2003, M-DCPS Charter School District Review Committee met to review the application for Las Palmas Charter School and by a unanimous vote made a recommendation for approval of the application to the Superintendent of Schools.

The charter school proposes to serve a maximum of 180 students in grades kindergarten through eight, with 100 students in grades kindergarten through three in its first year of operation, commencing with the 2004-2005 school year, at a facility located at 14410 SW 197 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33196.

The following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Ms. Alicia Peña, Financial Consultant; Mr. Eladio Valdes, Businessperson; Mr. Julio Concepcion, Businessperson; Mr. Osvaldo Cueli, Businessperson; Mr. Rene Revilla, Farmer; Mr. Lao Aguilera, Businessperson; Mr. Dionicio Febles, Farmer; and Mr. Marco Martinez, Farmer and Investor.

Any pending issues identified by the Charter School District Review Committee in the recommended application, including minimizing the impact on district schools that are under-enrolled, will be addressed satisfactorily in the development of the charter school contractual agreement. The charter school contractual agreement will be submitted for School Board consideration at a subsequent meeting at which time there will be a public hearing to provide for community input.

Copies of the charter school application will be placed on file and will be available for inspection in the School Board Members' office, in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, and in the Citizen Information Center.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. approve the application for The United Property Owners of the 8.5 Square Mile Area, Inc., on behalf of Las Palmas Charter School; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a charter school contractual agreement for a term of five years, commencing with the 2004-2005 school year, which reflects the contents of the application, as approved by the School Board.

RKF/MB/CR:dcr