

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK, OCTOBER 18-24, 2009, AND ENCOURAGE YEAR-ROUND TEEN DRIVER SAFETY SKILLS AT ALL DISTRICT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVED SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT BY IMPLEMENTING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has reported that almost 7,000 drivers between the ages of 15 to 20 were involved in fatal crashes in the United States in 2007. Authorities cited common risk factors such as nighttime driving, text messaging, alcohol-impaired driving, and driving with multiple passengers in the vehicle as common risky driving behaviors. As a way of promoting safe teen driver skills and to help reduce crashes involving teen drivers in communities throughout the nation, the United States Congress designated the third week of each October as National Teen Driver Safety Week. This year, the event will run from October 18 to 24, 2009. This safety initiative encourages parents, young drivers, lawmakers and educators to work together to change risky driving behaviors at the high school age level and help save lives across the country.

To advance this important teen driver safety initiative at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, it is recommended that the School Board endorse the week of October 18 to 24, 2009, as National Teen Driver Safety Week. During this week, the winning Public Service Announcements and Posters developed by senior high school students for the 2009 Senior High School Student Safety Campaign contest will be reproduced and distributed to all District senior high school campuses, along with promotional safety material. Funding for this initiative will be provided by a \$25,000 grant facilitated by the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 18-24, 2009, and encourage year-round teen driver safety skills at all District senior high schools.