

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2012 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST HIGHLIGHTING THE DANGERS OF TEEN DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

For the past several years, I have promoted National Teen Driver safety initiatives, primarily focusing on the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or distracted, which includes "texting" while driving. Wishing to build on the successes of the Teen Driver Safety Campaign, the Jackson Health System and the Florida Poison Information Center-Miami have approached the District to collaborate on ways to bring heightened awareness on the dangers of Teen Driving in our community, while under the influence of illegal substances.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of fatalities for 15 to 19-year olds. In 2009, more than six percent of 16 or 17 year olds and nearly 17 percent of 18 to 20 year-olds reported driving under the influence of alcohol. Teens are the least experienced drivers as a group, and have a higher risk of being involved in an accident, compared with more experienced drivers. When this lack of experience is combined with the use of illegal substances, prescription and over-the-counter medications, results can be tragic.

Jackson Health Systems and the Florida Poison Information team, in partnership with the School District, desire to reduce these staggering statistics, by promoting awareness via a District-wide poster contest. The contest would be open to all high schools, and would run from January 9 to February 28, 2012. Winners would be announced during the March 2012 School Board meeting, as part of the Poison Prevention Month festivities. First, second and third place winners will receive prizes including a laptop computer, iPad, and iPod. In addition, the first place poster will be displayed on a prominent billboard in the community.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the 2012 Senior High School Safety Poster Contest highlighting the dangers of driving while impaired.