Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL   BOARD   ENDORSEMENT   OF   THE
                    INTERNATIONAL   "WALK   TO   SCHOOL   DAY", AND
                    IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "WALKSAFE" PEDESTRIAN
                    SAFETY PROGRAM CURRICULUM, DURING THE WEEK OF
                    THE EVENT

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION,   EFFICIENCY   AND   GOVERNMENTAL
                    RELATIONS

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

International "Walk to School Day," planned for October 8, 2014, is designed to promote awareness about pedestrian safety among students, parents, and schools. The program reinforces safe routes to schools and safe walking skills, as well as walking as exercise to combat childhood obesity. The program is environmentally friendly because it reduces pollution generated by school-related traffic, and reinforces the importance of reducing traffic speed and obeying the school zone limits.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee have endorsed the "Walk to School Day" event, which is also sponsored nationwide by the National SAFE KIDS Coalition. This safety awareness campaign is crucial in our communities, as alarming data recently published by the Florida Department of Transportation Safety Office reveals 131 children under the age of 15 were injured and three killed in traffic crashes in Miami-Dade County during 2012.

It is also recommended that the "WalkSafe" pedestrian safety program curriculum be implemented to coincide with the "Walk to School Day" event. The Office of Physical Education and Health Literacy will spearhead its implementation at all District elementary schools. "WalkSafe" was created by the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine to reduce pediatric pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

Both programs are operated at no cost to the District.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County,
                                  Florida, endorse the International "Walk to
                                  School Day", and implement the "WalkSafe"
                                  pedestrian safety program curriculum during
                                  the week of the event.

H-7