

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: SCHOOL/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

Human Trafficking involves the commercial exchange and exploitation of humans, involuntary labor, servitude and debt bondage. Human trafficking is a growing problem worldwide rising to the second most common criminal activity behind the illegal drug trade. Currently there are approximately 27 million people enslaved throughout the world with 2.5 million located in the United States. Florida, with one of the highest incidences of human trafficking in the country, has been identified as a hub for human trafficking.

In May 2012, agenda item H20 was passed endorsing the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign. The M-DCPS Campaign was aimed at educating students, administrators, teachers, counselors and school site personnel on the issues of human trafficking through the use of administrative briefings, awareness posters and the distribution of a resource page with both local community and on-line resources. The Division of Student Services, in collaboration with various internal and external stakeholders, continues to expand efforts in the area of human trafficking. An informational webpage within the Division of Student Services Initiatives section highlights human trafficking awareness, training presentations directed towards parents have been developed and media blitzes, training for school employees and a student-led campaign have been proposed for implementation in 2014-2015. In addition, assistance was provided to the State Attorney's Office for the development and implementation of a community-wide campaign and a Policy Institute meeting was held to focus efforts at the school level.

The Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (M-DSPD), Investigative Division, under the leadership of Chief Ian Moffett continues to take proactive steps to assure that human trafficking is a priority issue. M-DSPD detectives that are detached to the State Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Unit, assist and investigate the growing trend of crime in human trafficking. The mission of the task force is to identify and rescue victims, create a coordinated law enforcement system to investigate and prosecute these crimes, and to deliver social, legal and immigration services to human trafficking victims in Miami-Dade Public Schools. The Task Force serves as a mechanism for communication and strategic collaboration between law enforcement agencies and service providers; coordinates community and school resources; promotes community and student awareness of human trafficking; and trains intermediary communities, and school personnel on human trafficking indicators and responses.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY VICE CHAIR
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse January 2015 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.