

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: YOUTH SAFETY

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A priority of the School Board of Miami-Dade County is the safety of our students, teachers, and faculty both on school campuses and throughout the community. In recent years, the lives of our youth have been significantly impacted by acts of violence involving guns and other weapons. In the past decade, children and teens have become victims as a result of violence in our community.

Since 2014, the Miami-Dade County School District and its Police Department have worked to update the security system and procedures for all school campuses across the district in an effort to further secure school campuses. These updates have included increasing the amount of random weapon searches, adding additional trained police K-9s, and investing in the identification of mental health issues in students. The District eliminated the traditional out-of-school suspension procedures and created "Success Centers" where suspended students are staffed by teachers, social workers, and other service providers to work with them and keep them on schedule with their classwork.

Also in 2014, the District announced its partnership with the United States Department of Homeland Security in the adoption of the "IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING" national campaign. Miami-Dade County Public Schools was the first school district in the nation to partner with the federal department on this initiative.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is committed to continuing to be an active leader in ensuring safe school campuses and decreasing youth violence throughout our communities.

However, youth gun violence is not an issue the Miami-Dade School District can solve on its own. In order to address this gripping concern, it will take the work of elected leaders, community organizations and local governments uniting and standing together.

This item seeks to authorize the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of the Miami-Dade County Public School District, the Miami-Dade County Commission, the City of Miami Commission, and the Children's Trust to enter into an interlocal agreement that will consist of strategic plans and programs to address the issue of violence throughout Miami-Dade County.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, support the Superintendent in his efforts to explore the feasibility of the District entering into an interlocal agreement with Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami, the Children's Trust, and other municipalities as may be appropriate.