

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2017 INTERNATIONAL "WALK TO SCHOOL DAY", AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "WALKSAFE" PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM CURRICULUM, DURING THE WEEK OF THE EVENT

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

International "Walk to School Day," planned for October 4, 2017, 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 obeying school zone speed limits.

In 2016, the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) [currently the Miami-Dade Transportation Organization (TPO)] and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee endorsed the "Walk to School Day" event. This safety awareness campaign is crucial in our communities, as alarming data provided by Ryder Trauma Center and Nicklaus Children's Hospital reveals 28 children under the age of 15 were injured and one (1) killed in traffic crashes in Miami-Dade County during 2016. Between January and March of 2017, there was one (1) injury reported for children under the age of 15 related to traffic crashes.

In October 2015, 213 schools implemented the "WalkSafe" pedestrian safety program curriculum to coincide with the "Walk to School Day" event. The Office of Physical Education and Health Literacy will continue to 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

PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the 2017 International "Walk to School Day", and implement the "WalkSafe" pedestrian safety program curriculum during the week of the event.