

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: PROVIDE RELIEF TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF IGUALA IN THE COUNTRY OF HONDURAS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

For decades, the nation of Honduras has been plagued by the myriad of social issues associated with political instability and poverty. The past several years have been particularly difficult, with the country currently facing the highest level of economic inequality in Latin America. According to 2016 data reported by The World Bank, roughly one out of 5 Hondurans in rural areas live on less than the equivalent of \$1.90 per day. Such economic and social conditions have inevitably affected the country's education system, especially in Honduras' most rural areas. Children and young adults residing in these areas frequently experience additional challenges in accessing a quality education that would empower them in their pursuit of a better quality of life.

The Minority Chamber of Commerce (MCC), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and sustaining economic progress for minority-owned business enterprises in Miami-Dade County, has launched a campaign to provide relief efforts to rural areas of Honduras. One of these areas is the municipality of Iguala. Located in the province of Lempira in western Honduras, it is home to nearly 27,000 people. The municipality's mayor, Mr. Marcio Miranda, is focusing his efforts on improving the physical condition of school facilities and providing all children with access to the local school.

In support of these efforts, Mayor Miranda has requested the assistance of Miami-Dade County Public Schools via MCC. More specifically, a request was made to determine if the District had a surplus school bus available that could be donated to the municipality to transport children. Based on specifications provided by MCC and Honduran officials, staff has identified a previously decommissioned school bus that meets the needs of the community of Iguala. MCC has also indicated it will fully sponsor the transport of the bus to Honduras. As is District practice, any donations of M-DCPS property shall be made in accordance with applicable Florida Statutes and Board policy. In furtherance of the District's educational mission, this item is presented for the Board's consideration to support a country whose children frequently enroll in our school system.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to:

- 1) provide a school bus identified as surplus inventory, as may be available, to the municipality of Iguala, Lempira, Honduras, and
- 2) coordinate transport of the donated bus with identified willing agencies at no cost to the District.