

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-043 OF THE  
                          SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
                          RECOGNIZING THE MIAMI-DADE SCHOOL POLICE EXPLORER  
                          PROGRAM**

**COMMITTEE:       PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

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

The Law Enforcement Explorer program is an experiential program tailored to high school students interested in a career in law enforcement or a related field in the criminal justice system. The program seeks to teach important life and career skills to young students from all backgrounds through immersive career experiences. The program equips young students with character, leadership and life skills that can be helpful in their future careers of choice. The program is an integral part of the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (MDPSD), and is operated out of the Community Outreach Unit.

Police Explorers are sponsored by the MDSPD and have been in existence since 1959. A well established and highly respected program, it serves as a platform for countless young people who have launched a successful career with local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Many Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, and heads of other types of law enforcement agencies credit their participation in police explorer groups with providing them the foundation for a successful career.

The program offers valuable skills aside from police training. The benefits of the program worth highlighting include: exposure to various criminal justice careers, hands-on experience and awareness of the criminal justice system, comprehensive career-focused training that, in many cases, qualifies for higher education academic credit, preparation for career-related college degree programs and other advanced education opportunities, character development through teamwork experiences, improved physical and mental fitness, community service activities, networking opportunities, and leadership development and interpersonal growth.

Currently, the largest number of Police Explorers in Miami-Dade County participate within the MDSPD Police Explorer Program throughout several posts hosted at selected high schools. This school year, high schools hosted eight explorer posts at: Homestead Senior High, Mays Conservatory School of the Arts, Miami Southridge Senior High School, Felix Varela Senior High, Law Enforcement Memorial High School, Miami Central Senior High School, Barbara Goleman Senior High School and Hialeah Gardens Senior High School.

**Replacement  
B-7**

Next school year, the program will add two more posts at Coral Reef Senior High School and John A. Ferguson Senior High School. Additionally, the program has extended itself to the middle school arena with the implementation of a club currently offered at Hialeah Gardens Middle School. As of today, the program counts with approximately 80 explorers and expects that number to continue to grow each year as new posts are opened at schools. The explorers each have one to two police officer advisors assigned to each post. The officers are responsible for weekly meetings where they teach the dynamics of law enforcement and follow the vision and mission of the program. They also conduct field trips with the explorers to community events.

Explorers participate in many different training curriculums and competitions. During spring break, the explorers compete in various scenarios and physical activity. This competition plays a vital role in their development as they get to simulate and perform police activity related duties and are evaluated as such. During the summer, the program offers a 3-week explorer academy culminating in a graduation ceremony. The program also facilitates scholarship opportunities through the Dade Chiefs partners and community organizations which assist in financing their college education. As community partner, The Miami Dolphins recently awarded a full police academy scholarship to a worthy explorer.

The explorer program offers young students a personal awareness of the criminal justice system through training, practical experiences, competition and other activities. Additionally, the program promotes personal growth through character development, respect for the rule of law, physical fitness, good citizenship and patriotism.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 19-043 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Miami-Dade School Police Explorer Program.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-043**  
**OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,**  
**RECOGNIZING THE MIAMI-DADE SCHOOL POLICE EXPLORER PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Law Enforcement Explorer program is an experiential program tailored to high school students interested in a career in law enforcement or a related field in the criminal justice system. The program seeks to teach important life and career skills to young students from all backgrounds through immersive career experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, Police Explorers are sponsored by the MDSPD and have been in existence since 1959. A well established and highly respected program, it serves as a platform for countless young people who have launched a successful career with local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Many Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, and heads of other types of law enforcement agencies credit their participation in police explorer groups with providing them the foundation for a successful career; and

**WHEREAS**, the program offers valuable skills aside from police training. The benefits of the program worth highlighting include: exposure to various criminal justice careers, hands-on experience and awareness of the criminal justice system, comprehensive career-focused training that, in many cases, qualifies for higher education academic credit, preparation for career-related college degree programs and other advanced education opportunities, character development through teamwork experiences, improved physical and mental fitness, community service activities, networking opportunities, and leadership development and interpersonal growth; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, the largest number of Police Explorers in Miami-Dade County participate within the MDSPD Police Explorer Program throughout several posts hosted at selected high schools. This school year, high schools hosted eight explorer posts at: Homestead Senior High, Mays Conservatory School of the Arts, Miami Southridge Senior High School, Felix Varela Senior High, Law Enforcement Memorial High School, Miami Central Senior High School, Barbara Goleman Senior High School and Hialeah Gardens Senior High School. Next school year, the program will add two more posts at Coral Reef Senior High School and John A. Ferguson Senior High School; and

**WHEREAS**, the explorers each have one to two police officer advisors assigned to each post. The officers are responsible for weekly meetings where they teach dynamics of law enforcement and follow the vision and mission of the program. They also conduct field trips with the explorers to community events where they participate in many different training curriculums and competitions. The program also facilitates scholarship opportunities through the Dade Chiefs partners and community organizations which assist in financing their college education. As community partner, The Miami Dolphins recently awarded a full police academy scholarship to a worthy explorer; and

**WHEREAS**, the program's mission is to offer young adults a personal awareness of the criminal justice system through training, practical experiences, competition, and other activities. Additionally, the program promotes personal growth through character development, respect for the rule of law, physical fitness, good citizenship and patriotism; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-043 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Miami-Dade School Police Explorer Program.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

**Presented this nineteenth day of June, A.D. 2019**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary