

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, JOIN IN RECOGNIZING MIAMI-DADE SCHOOLS POLICE LIEUTENANT ALEJANDRO “AL” PALACIO, RECIPIENT OF THE FLORIDA STATE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE (FOP) LODGE 2020 MAN OF THE YEAR**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE STUDENTS, TEACHERS, LEADERS AND STAFF**

Anyone can have the desire to become a school police officer, but few can actually fill this role. The drive, determination, commitment to service, personal sacrifice, and passion to protect and serve students and the school community, are just a few of the personal and professional characteristics and qualities that come to mind as the Miami-Dade County School Board recognizes School Police Lieutenant Alejandro “Al” Palacio, the recipient of the Florida State Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 2020 Man of the Year.

Lieutenant Palacio started his law enforcement career with the Hialeah Gardens Police Department over 20 years ago. Since joining the Miami-Dade School Police (M-DSP) in May 2002, he has served the school communities of Miami Northwestern Senior High School, Booker T. Washington Senior High School, Horace Mann Middle School, and Kinloch Park Middle School. Additionally, during his tenure at M-DSP, as a Sergeant, he actively supported the communities of Little Havana, Coral Gables, South Miami, Miami Gardens, and Hialeah. At M-DSP, he created and supervised the Aggressive Driving Unit, supervised the Field Training Program, supervised the Hiring and Recruitment section, and supervised the Internal Affairs Division. As a Lieutenant, he has managed the Northeast Operational Area. Lieutenant Palacio joined the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) in 2003 and during his FOP career service, he has acted as Vice President and President of his local lodge, and as Guard, Assistant Director, and Acting Director for District 6.

During the past three years, he led the negotiation’s team for M-DCPS police officers, securing pay increases for his members and championed the approval from the Miami-Dade County voters to levy an ad-valorem assessment, November 6, 2018, which yielded additional funds supporting school safety and security. Moreover, he also participates with the State Lodge Legislative Committee and is known by many South Florida Legislators. He has advocated for school safety legislation and the LEOSA Bill for all Florida Law Enforcement Officers, among many others. He recently was sought out by the Ohio State Lodge as a subject matter expert on school safety.

He has been actively engaged with the community supporting the Easter Seals Foundation, doing the annual Teddy Bear give away, and playing Santa Clause for under-privileged children, the elderly, and adults with disabilities. He has also helped plan the annual Valentine's Day fundraiser connecting with other charities in the Miami-Dade County area.

Lieutenant Palacio is a graduate of Hialeah Senior High School and attended Miami-Dade Community College. He holds several certifications in the areas of hostage negotiations, traffic homicide, radar/laser operator and instructor, police motorcycle operations, advanced traffic crash reconstruction, and police instructor, among others.

Most recently, Lieutenant Palacio was selected to be the Chair of the National FOP 2025 Conference Exploratory Committee. His presentation was so powerful at the Fall 2020 National Board of Trustee's meeting that the leading contender for the 2025 Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, gracefully withdrew from consideration.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize Miami-Dade Schools Police Lieutenant Alejandro "Al" Palacio, recipient of the Florida State Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 2020 Man of the Year.

