

Mr. Danny Espino, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH A STANDARDIZED PLAN FOR MAPPING, CAMERAS, AND COMMUNICATION TO REDUCE REAL-TIME RISK AND IMPROVE EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDERS' RESPONSE TIME

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: EFFECTIVE & SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONAL PRACTICES

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the safety and security of its schools. Building upon this commitment, the School Board previously established the Safety and Security Task Force as a result of the December 19, 2018, School Board meeting Agenda Item H-9 ("Authorize Superintendent of Schools to Establish a Safety and Security Task Force to Review Findings of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission Report) proffered by School Board Chair, Mari Tere Rojas. Several key recommendations from the Safety and Security Task Force were the following:

- Offer First Responders "Stop the Bleed" kits to prevent additional loss of life;
- Formalize a system to troubleshoot faulty cameras;
- Implement a standardized plan for re-numbering and re-labeling school maps and buildings by zones;
- Use General Obligation Bonds (GOB) funds for plan designs in the hardening of schools.

In furtherance of this objective, the School Board previously approved the Agenda Item H-19 (Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to Review Current School Campus Signage Plans) also proffered at the April 25, 2018, School Board meeting by School Board Chair, Mari Tere Rojas. This item authorized the Superintendent to review current school campus signage plans, directional, signage, and the implementation of security cameras.

As a result of Item H-19, cameras were installed in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools, which provide centralized monitoring capability to the Miami-Dade School Police Department's Command Center. Additionally, new signage was installed at schools to direct visitors to the main campus entrance and alert them that security cameras are in use.

Despite notable improvements in signage within District schools as well as the installation of security cameras in all schools, there are areas that require improvement. A thorough review is imperative to ensure that the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) and the District have effectively coordinated their resources to guarantee that all safety requirements are met. This assessment will be crucial in evaluating the seamless integration of resources and protocols between the two entities, aiming to enhance the overall safety and security of measures within the District. By conducting this review, any potential gaps or areas for improvement can be identified and addressed, ultimately fostering a safer environment for the entire community.

First responders navigate high pressure and challenging situations daily, it is imperative that resources and initiatives be directed to provide actionable intelligence with real-time information. Ensuring that all responding personnel, including local and mutual aid responders, possess sufficient knowledge of locations and safety-to-life solutions is critical for timely and effective crisis response. Visualizing a common operating picture serves as a unifying platform that eliminates ambiguity in communications by providing standardized frames of reference.

This item endeavors to work with Miami-Dade partners to deter, identify, and solve crimes, increase the overall public safety in our neighborhoods and throughout the county to create a common safer landscape amongst various stakeholders.

Additionally, HB 301, *Emergency Response Mapping Data*, has further brought to light the statewide need for school mapping updates that allow first responders to have easy access to school specific locations. As a result of this legislation, the School Mapping Data Grant Program has been created to provide funding for school-site mapping updates that will assist any type of first responder, regardless of their familiarity with the specific school buildings they are responding to, to improve emergency response and safety in schools.

By unifying these initiatives and local partnerships, M-DCPS has the opportunity to significantly enhance the overall safety and security of all District schools. While each of these items serves a distinct purpose in addressing specific challenges, their collective impact can be magnified through coordination and interoperability. This unified approach would streamline communication, share critical information efficiently, and allow for real-time monitoring and response, ensuring that every facet is addressed in a synchronized manner. It also enables better resource allocation, optimizing budgets for maximum effectiveness.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent of Schools to review, assess, and where recommended, safety and security provisions as follows:

- Direct the superintendent to explore the feasibility of developing a mapping and location identifying plan for all Miami-Dade County Public Schools, which creates a uniform methodology for school site orientation, to be used for signage and camera labeling; and
- As part of this proposed plan, if feasible provide current mapping data to Miami-Dade Police Department's Command Center, Miami-Dade Police Department's Real-Time Crime Center, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, and other local jurisdictional police/fire departments. Mapping data should contain site-specific labeling, including room, hallway areas, critical locations, automated defibrillators, trauma kits, re-unification areas, and camera locations.
- This item also requests to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to, if determined feasible, engage in discussions and negotiations with MDPD to formalize inclusion of the Miami-Dade School Board in Project Green Light. This would involve establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines terms and conditions for providing access to school cameras to support the efforts of local law enforcement, while not disclosing publicly any safety sensitive information.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the General Counsel's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. DANNY ESPINO:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. Explore the feasibility of developing a mapping and location identifying plan for all Miami-Dade County Public Schools, which creates a uniform methodology for school site orientation, to be used for signage and camera labeling;
2. If feasible, provide current mapping data to Miami-Dade Police Department's Command Center, Miami-Dade Police Department's Real-Time Crime Center, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, and other local jurisdictional police/fire departments (Mapping data should contain site-specific labeling, including room, hallway areas, critical locations, automated defibrillators, trauma kits, re-unification areas, and camera locations);
3. If determined feasible, engage in discussions and negotiations with MDPD to formalize inclusion of the Miami-Dade School Board in Project Green Light, while not disclosing publicly any safety sensitive information; and
4. Provide a report on the feasibility of this proposed plan to the Fiscal Accountability and Government Relations Committee by December 13, 2023.