

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE COMMITTED AGAINST PEACEFUL PUBLIC EXPRESSION

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Our community values the peaceful expression of political beliefs and the importance of civil discourse. As educators and leaders, we are committed to fostering an environment that upholds these values, teaching our students the importance of resolving conflicts through non-violent means, and encouraging active, informed participation in our democratic process. If we stand united against violence and for the peaceful demonstration of our civil liberties, we can ensure a safer and more prosperous future for all.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County unequivocally condemns the use of violence and the resulting injuries and death inflicted on innocent bystanders attending a political event on July 13, 2024, where one spectator was killed, two were critically injured, and former President Donald J. Trump was injured by gunfire. Such acts of violence have no place in our society and are antithetical to the principles of democracy and the rule of law. We call upon all citizens, to reject violence and embrace dialogue and mutual respect. It is through peaceful engagement and constructive debate that we can address our differences and build a stronger, more unified nation.

Good cause exists to vary from the published agenda because this tragic incident took place after the publication of the Agenda. Addressing the incident with immediacy addresses the need to educate students about these principles and model appropriate responses to crisis.

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

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. condemns the use of all violence against persons engaging in peaceful public expression during a

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political event and expresses its deepest sympathy for the victims of this violence, and;

2. as a means of reinforcing, for all our students, important educational values such as non-violence, civic responsibility, and respect for our democratic processes, call on all citizens, to reject violence and to embrace peaceful and constructive dialogue and mutual respect and request that the Superintendent offer District mental health services, such as counseling, to those students who may have been affected by this incident.