

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

Co-Sponsors:

Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Mr. Roberto Alonso
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Mr. Daniel Espino
Mr. Joseph S. Geller

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BY
BOARD
ACTION

SUBJECT:

REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 26-040 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MIAMI-DADE SCHOOLS POLICE (MDSP), COMMEMORATING THE BEGINNING OF SCHOOL-BASED LAW-ENFORCEMENT IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ITS LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

COMMITTEE:

PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

PLAN:

HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS, & STAFF

In 1957, the Dade County school district formally recognized the importance of security as an essential component of its educational mission and appointed Mr. John Tyler as its first Security Assistant. This appointment marked the beginning of a dedicated effort to strengthen the safety and security of students, staff, and school facilities. In this initial role, Mr. Tyler was responsible for conducting investigations, performing background checks, and coordinating with local law enforcement agencies on matters affecting the school district. Although the effort began with a single position, it established the foundation for what would evolve over the following decades into a comprehensive school-based law enforcement agency and, ultimately, the nation's largest school-based police department.

As Miami-Dade County's population and public school district continued to expand, so did the scope and responsibilities of its school security operations. In 1966, the establishment of the Security Services Department represented a significant organizational advancement, providing a more structured and comprehensive approach to addressing the safety and security needs of the growing school district. By 1973, the department had further expanded its operations, with officers conducting nighttime patrols and being assigned directly to selected secondary schools. This development marked an important evolution in the district's approach to school safety, from an initial emphasis on safeguarding buildings, property, and facilities to a broader mission focused on protecting students and employees and maintaining safe and secure learning environments.

In 1979, the organization continued to evolve with the establishment of the Special Investigative Unit, reflecting an expanded focus on investigations and specialized support for the school district. Throughout the 1980s, the District further advanced its approach to school safety through a pilot program that placed police officers directly on secondary school campuses. This initiative represented a significant milestone in the development of school-based policing, establishing a model for what would ultimately become the modern School Resource Officer

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(SRO) program. By positioning officers within schools and fostering direct relationships with students, employees, and school administrators, the program strengthened the agency's ability to provide both proactive safety services and responsive law-enforcement support.

In 1992, recognizing the importance of a consistent and visible law-enforcement presence on school campuses, the District made a significant commitment to assign a police officer to every secondary school. That same year, the agency was formally designated as the Division of School Police, further solidifying its role as an integral component of the District's overall safety and security structure. This period marked a continued transformation from a security-focused operation into a comprehensive school-based law-enforcement agency dedicated to protecting students and employees while supporting safe and secure learning environments.

In 1999, the agency underwent another important transformation in its public identity and appearance. The traditional brown police uniforms were replaced with blue uniforms, providing a more contemporary and recognizable presence throughout Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The agency also introduced a redesigned badge featuring Miami Senior High School, symbolically connecting the School Police to the rich history and longstanding tradition of public education in Miami-Dade County. The new badge served not only as an emblem of law enforcement but also as a representation of the agency's unique role within the school community.

In 2000, this evolution culminated in the agency's official designation as the Miami-Dade Schools Police (MDSP) Department. The new name reflected the department's distinct mission, identity, and responsibility as a dedicated law-enforcement agency serving the nation's third-largest school district. Over the decades, the department had grown from a single security position into a comprehensive school-based police organization committed to the safety, security, and well-being of students, staff, and school communities throughout Miami-Dade County.

Over the decades that followed, the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department continued to evolve in response to the changing needs of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the communities it serves. The Department expanded its investigative capabilities, developed specialized units, embraced emerging technologies, strengthened youth intervention and engagement programs, and deepened its partnerships with municipal, county, state, and federal law-enforcement agencies. These advancements reflected a commitment to ensuring that school safety remained comprehensive, proactive, and responsive to the challenges facing students, employees, and school communities. In 2015, the Department reached another significant milestone by achieving state law-enforcement accreditation, further demonstrating its commitment to professional standards, accountability, training, and excellence in service.

The tragic events at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018 underscored the critical importance of school safety and ushered in a new era of heightened awareness, preparedness, and collaboration. In response to the evolving expectations for school security, Miami-Dade Schools Police strengthened its role in coordinating law-enforcement protection across Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The Department continued to enhance emergency preparedness, interagency coordination, campus security, threat assessment, and community partnerships, while expanding upon a comprehensive school-policing model designed to protect students and employees and foster safe, supportive learning environments.

From the appointment of a single Security Assistant in 1957 to a department of hundreds of dedicated law-enforcement professionals serving schools throughout Miami-Dade County today, MDSP's responsibilities, capabilities, and resources have grown tremendously. Yet, throughout every chapter of its history, one fundamental purpose has remained constant: to safeguard schools, support students and employees, and serve the communities entrusted to the MDSP's care.

As we commemorate 70 years of service, we honor the men and women who built Miami-Dade Schools Police, those who have served with distinction throughout its history, and those who continue to carry its mission forward. Seven decades of progress stand as a testament to a steadfast commitment to service, professionalism, and the protection of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools community.

For 70 years, MDSP has protected schools, served the school community, and stood ready to protect the future. The mission has evolved, responsibilities have grown, and methods have advanced, but commitment has never wavered. For 70 years and for generations to come, the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department will continue to protect, serve, and safeguard the future of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-040 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Miami-Dade County Schools police, commemorating the beginning of school-based law-enforcement in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and its longstanding commitment to supporting the safety and security of students and staff.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-040 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MIAMI
DADE SCHOOLS POLICE, COMMEMORATING THE BEGINNING OF
SCHOOL-BASED LAW-ENFORCEMENT IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, in 1957, the Dade County school district formally recognized the importance of security as an essential component of its educational mission and appointed Mr. John Tyler as its first Security Assistant;

WHEREAS, as Miami-Dade County and its public school system grew, so did the need for expanded school security services. In 1966, the Security Services Department was established, creating a more structured approach to protecting students, employees, and school facilities;

WHEREAS, by 1973, the department had further expanded its operations, with officers conducting nighttime patrols and being assigned directly to selected secondary schools. In 1979, the organization continued to evolve with the establishment of the Special Investigative Unit, with an expanded focus on investigations and specialized support for the school district;

WHEREAS, throughout the 1980s, the District further advanced its approach to school safety through a pilot program that placed police officers directly on secondary school campuses. This initiative helped establish the foundation for today's School Resource Officer (SRO) program;

WHEREAS, in 1992, recognizing the importance of a consistent and visible law-enforcement presence on school campuses, the District made a significant commitment to assign a police officer to every secondary school. That same year, the agency was formally designated as the Division of School Police. In 1999, the agency replaced its traditional brown uniforms with blue uniforms, establishing a more modern and recognizable presence throughout Miami-Dade County Public Schools;

WHEREAS, in 2000, this evolution culminated in the agency's official designation as the **Miami-Dade Schools Police (MDSP) Department**; and

WHEREAS, for 70 years, the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department has protected schools, served the school community, and remained committed to safeguarding the future of Miami-Dade County Public Schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approves Resolution NO. 26-040 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Miami-Dade County Schools Police, commemorating the beginning of school-based law-enforcement in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and its longstanding commitment to supporting the safety and security of students and staff.

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

Presented on this ninth day of September, A. D. 2026

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY