

May 15, 2001

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FACILITATE THE OBTAINMENT AND UTILIZATION OF COMPUTERIZED FLOOR PLANS FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY OR NATURAL DISASTER

As established by the 2000 Florida State Legislature, Florida Statute 235.192 (Coordination of School Safety information; construction design documents). Beginning October 1, 2000, each district superintendent of schools must provide to the law enforcement agency and fire department that have jurisdiction over each educational facility a copy of the floor plans and other relevant documents for each educational facility in the district, as defined by statute 235.011(6). After the initial submission of the floor plans and other relevant documents, the district superintendent of schools shall submit, by October 1 of each year, revised floor plans and other relevant documents for each educational facility in the district that was modified during the preceding year.

Accordingly, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) maintains its own law enforcement agency in the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (MDSPD). MDSPD did compile and provide floor plans to the Metro-Dade Police Department to be shared with appropriate police and fire agencies through mutual aid agreements. Additionally, MDSPD has coordinated and participated in several meetings and training exercises with several local police and fire agencies to enhance emergency preparedness within schools. During the past 18 months MDSPD has participated in training exercises with the following agencies: Metro-Dade Police Department, Metro-Dade Fire Rescue, Miami Police Department, Hialeah Police Department, Florida Highway Patrol, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. MDSPD command staff, police supervisors, police officers, school administrators, and other invited staff have participated in training, on the following topics: Critical Incidents in Schools, Weapons of Mass Destruction, and Critical Incident Response for Command Officers. A critical incident summit is being planned for June 2001, which will bring together representatives from police and fire agencies in Miami-Dade County and will include school administrators. A corner stone of the summit will be a presentation by the United States Secret Service on school violence. The Secret Service has collected and assessed data on school violence incidents throughout the nation.

The Metro-Dade Police Department is currently in the process of enhancing the construction floor plans previously provided to them by MDSPD through a specialized vendor. The objective is to deliver a user-friendly program that incorporates school floor plans, neighborhood site plans, interior/exterior photographs, faculty information, and tactical notes for thirty-one high schools, at a cost to be determined. It is recommended that the MDCPS explore a cooperative agreement with the Metro-Dade Police

Department to complete the enhancement process for the additional 287 elementary, middle, and alternative/specialized schools. In the interim period updated construction floor plans will be provided to all police and fire participants in the above referenced summit.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent and Chief of Police to explore a cooperative agreement with the Metro-Dade Police Department for the enhancement of computerized floor plans for Miami-Dade County Public Schools which can then be provided to all local police and fire agencies to be used in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.