

Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 18-034 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING HARPERSMILES, INC. FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO SPREADING AWARENESS ABOUT CHILD SAFETY HAZARDS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE HOME

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

The mission of HarperSmiles, Inc. is to educate, inspire and motivate parents to secure furniture and prevent tip-over injuries. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission there are an average of 33,100 annual emergency room injuries treated due to such accidents, and one death of a child every two weeks from tip-over injuries.

HarperSmiles, Inc. is dedicated to spreading awareness about child safety hazards both inside and outside of the home, especially with furniture tip-over prevention. They are committed to educating families and caregivers as well as providing proper installation and usage information for appropriate safety devices. They also provide personal and financial support for families who have endured unimaginable tragedies, in hopes of helping them through their suffering.

Harper Ayva Fried was born on October 29, 2013. From day one she was a perfect, tiny little lady. Over the course of the next 3 years she evolved into a sassy little individual. Small in stature, large in personality. She adored her big sister Kaylee, who she admired and imitated. She loved her baby sister Rhyann more than words can say. A spunky little spitfire who at just 3 years old maintained real loving and complex relationships with both children and adults in her life.

On the morning of November 19, 2016, Harper played in her bedroom as her family prepared for the day's events. Her bedroom was filled with normal bedroom items. A toy box, her crib, a dresser, a small television set, an arts and crafts easel and some of her favorite toys. On this regular, sunny Saturday morning, the unimaginable happened. That morning Harper died while playing in her room, which the family wholeheartedly believed to be a safe, child-friendly place. She was either climbing or hanging from one of her drawers when the dresser fell on top of her leading to a nearly instant cause of a preventable death.

The remainder of that day, and each day since, the lives of her parents and siblings lives have been a nightmare that they will never wake from. Knowing that they could have spent just a few dollars and a few minutes of their time to secure the furniture to the wall and that she would still be alive today is a terribly haunting awareness. It's not that they didn't baby-proof their house. Numerous baby gates were installed along with locks on each cabinet, and safety outlets and outlet covers. The fact is, Harper's parents believed that by purchasing children's furniture from a reputable children's store made by a manufacturer specializing in only juvenile furniture, that a safe purchase was made. The truth, however, is that no furniture, television or appliance is safe when not securely fastened to a wall.

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(Withdrawn - - 05/15/2018)

Since this nightmare began, Harper's family learned the chilling statistics of furniture and television tip over injuries. While it is not possible to go back and change Harper's fate, HarperSmiles, Inc. is committed to spreading awareness and helping educate others in hopes that other families don't suffer the same tragedy.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTIN KARP:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-034 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing HarperSmiles, Inc. for their commitment to spreading awareness about child safety hazards both inside and outside of the home.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-034
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING HARPERSMILES, INC. FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO SPREADING
AWARENESS ABOUT CHILD SAFETY HAZARDS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE
HOME**

WHEREAS, The mission of HarperSmiles, Inc. is to educate, inspire and motivate parents to secure furniture and prevent tip-over injuries and spread awareness about child safety hazards both inside and outside of the home, especially with furniture tip-over prevention, and;

WHEREAS, HarperSmiles, Inc. is committed to educating families and caregivers as well as providing proper installation and usage information for appropriate safety devices, and;

WHEREAS, Harper Ayva Fried was born on October 29, 2013. On the morning of November 19, 2016, Harper died while playing in her room, which the family wholeheartedly believed to be a safe, child-friendly place. She was either climbing or hanging from one of her drawers when the dresser fell on top of her leading to a nearly instant cause of a preventable death, and;

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission there are an average of 33,100 annual emergency room injuries treated due to such accidents, as well as one death resulting from this type of accident every 2 weeks. In 2016 over 30,000 children visited the emergency room due to a furniture or television tip-over accident. About 33 of those accidents resulted in the death of a child, and;

WHEREAS, HarperSmiles, Inc. provides personal and financial support for families who have endured unimaginable tragedies, in hopes of helping them through their suffering.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-034 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing HarperSmiles, Inc. for their commitment to spreading awareness about child safety hazards both inside and outside of the home.

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

Presented this sixteenth day of May, A.D. 2018

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary