



Dr. Marta Pérez
Vice Chair, District 8

Miami-Dade County School Board

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**Position Statement in Support of
Miami-Dade County School Police Department
Marta Perez, School Board Member District 8**

November 1, 2017

Superintendent of Schools

Alberto M. Carvalho

As a constitutionally elected officer, sworn to defend the interests of the constituents of Miami-Dade County, my record of support for our school police department has been consistent and robust. I can articulate the commonalities of values I share with the M-DCPS Police as I support the mission of the department to serve and protect the future of our community. These include: respect, integrity, service, education, collaboration, and pioneering programs. I am proud to be associated with our school police department as it has shown repeated leadership throughout the years in the global arena in school-based policing. Our officers not only train and work seamlessly with other police forces in the county and state, but they are often called upon to offer expertise to other school settings.

Salient reasons to be proud and encouraged by the work of the force include:

- The M-DCPS Police's stellar leadership record within our schools to capture potentially serious safety problems before they occur. These include preventing gang violence, apprehension of weapons in schools, and countless other problems that are quietly averted.
- Safety is the number one concern of M-DCPS. Although our mission is one of education, there cannot be learning if our students are not safe. In this our officers' work is above reproach.
- Our officers offer an example to our students of how to be good citizens.
- Our officers ensure school morale by their presence and actions, particularly in times of crisis during the school year.
- Many, many other positive actions that impact the lives and education of our students.

Throughout my tenure I have frequently invited the department to my town hall meetings to speak on behalf of the force. Although not enough, there has been continued growth in the size of the Police and District Security from 122 positions in 2012 to 147 positions in 2017. Further, I have always supported salary increases for the force. I have supported many proclamations and initiatives reflective of the important contributions of the department.

It is with honor and respect that I continue to support the work of our School Police Department.