



Town of Cutler Bay

Town Hall
10720 Caribbean Blvd
Cutler Bay, FL 33189

Memorandum

File #: Item # 2018-177, Version: 1

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Town Council

From: Mayor Peggy R. Bell

Date: September 26, 2018

Re: Supporting Miami-Dade County School Board's endorsement of Governor Rick Scott's recommendation to redirect unused Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program funds to school districts in support of school safety measures.

REQUEST

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S ENDORSEMENT OF GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT'S RECOMMENDATION TO REDIRECT UNUSED COACH AARON FEIS GUARDIAN PROGRAM FUNDS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

On September 5, 2018, the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida (the "School Board") voted to endorse Governor Rick Scott's recommendation that the Joint Florida Legislative Budget Commission (the "Commission") redirect the unused balance of approximately \$58 million from the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program (the "Program") to be equitably distributed to school districts to hire school resource and safety officers. In a letter dated September 7, 2018, the School Board requested the support of the Town of Cutler Bay (the "Town") in advocating to the Commission to approve Governor Scott's recommendation (Attachment "A").

The Town has eight (8) public schools, and we have first hand knowledge of the financial challenge that the School Board faces in complying with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act (SB 7026) (the "Act"). If the Town were to assist the School Board in assigning one or more police officers at each school within our community, it would be at an average cost of \$150,000 per officer. The Town is simply not able to absorb this cost. The Program provides \$67.5 million in funding to allow teachers who perform other

duties on campus to voluntarily receive law enforcement training and carry guns in schools. According to the Florida Department of Education, only \$9 million of the \$67.5 million appropriation has been used by schools. The Governor's proposal to redirect approximately \$58 million from the Program will help school districts throughout the state of Florida to staff more schools with an officer, thus improving the safety of our students.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Town Council adopt the attached Resolution, supporting Governor Scott's proposal.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment "A" - Request from School Board of Miami- Dade County, Florida