

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager

DATE: July 26, 2024

TITLE: **DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING COMMITTEE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION IN MIAMI BEACH SCHOOLS' ("QEC") MOTIONS PROMULGATED IN LTC 145-2024 RELATING TO STAFFING OF SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS WITHIN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH.**

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends the Mayor and City Commission consider and provide direction on the proposed recommendations.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the May 15, 2024 City Commission Meeting, at the request of Commissioner David Suarez, the Mayor and City Commission approved a referral (C4 V) to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC") to discuss the feasibility of implementing Committee for Quality Education's ("QEC") motions related to staffing of school crossing guards within the City of Miami Beach.

At their April 16, 2024 Committee for Quality Education meeting, the following motion was passed:

Motion

Made by Beverly Heller

Second by Chana R. Eisner

The Committee for Quality Education requests the Mayor and Commission to immediately fill all budgeted crossing guard positions and provide Miami Beach incentives to Miami Beach residents similar to the city's Substitute Teach at The Beach program and review crossing guard needs across the city at all public, private, and charter schools.

The Committee for Quality Education urges the Mayor and Commission to support the above request.

Motion Passage: Votes 15-0

Absent for Vote: Jacquelynn Powers

ANALYSIS

The Miami Beach School Crossing Guard ("SCG") program falls under the Department's Community Affairs Unit and is composed of part-time, temporary and non-sworn employees whose primary duty is to direct the movement of pedestrians at Miami Beach public schools safely across traffic pursuant to training. SCGs are assigned to a specific duty post and direct and control pedestrians only while assigned to this location. SCGs are also responsible for reporting issues such as damaged traffic signs, hazardous situations, and traffic problems to the Police Department's Patrol Division for a response. SCGs are not law enforcement officers and are not

permitted to carry weapons of any type.

The program currently serves the following four (4) public schools:

- Miami Beach South Pointe Elementary School
- Miami Beach Feinberg-Fisher K-8
- North Beach Elementary School
- Biscayne Beach Elementary School

Fourteen (14) positions are budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024. For the 2023-2024 school year, eight (8) positions were filled and six (6) remain unfilled. The unfilled positions have been advertised since 2023, but the Administration has not been able to attract and hire the number of SCGs needed to fill the vacancies. As a result, the following duty locations are not currently serviced:

- St. Patrick's Parish School
- Miami Beach Senior High School
- Hebrew Academy

On March 19, 2024, members of the Miami Beach Police Department met with the City's Committee for Quality Education. The Committee, recognizing the importance of the SCG program, offered its support to find solutions that would help recruit and fill the open positions. Since then, City staff met and developed several key recommendations with the support of the QEC and other stakeholders which could help increase interest, attract qualified candidates, and result in solid applications for the vacant positions.

The following recommendations, with zero financial impact, are being proposed:

1. Resident recruitment which allows for flexible hours and weekly schedules for Miami Beach school parents: A flexible schedule can make the SCG position more attractive to potential candidates, especially those otherwise overlooked due to commitments or responsibilities.
2. Resident incentives similar to the Teach at the Beach Substitute Teacher Program that provides for a citywide parking decal for one school year (for the first year only) which may encourage Miami Beach residents to join the SCG program as this incentive adds value to the position and makes it more appealing to prospective residential candidates.

Below is the most recent flyer disseminated by the City through its regular publications and social media networks:



FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Currently, the fourteen (14) budgeted School Crossing Guard positions amount to \$380,027 for Fiscal Year 2025. An additional financial impact has not been identified from the proposed recommendations even with an increase in SGC headcount.

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CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission consider the proposed recommendations to incentivize Miami Beach school parents and residents to apply for the crossing guard position. It is imperative that the Administration work alongside the QEC and other stakeholders to promote this program and attract qualified candidates effectively.

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a “Residents Right to Know” item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

No

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Police/EPI

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

School Crossing Guards Staffing.