

NEWS

**AS PROPOSED BY BOARD MEMBER PERLA TABARES HANTMAN,
SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSES THE 'SAVING PEDESTRIANS EVERYWHERE
DAY' PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY THE MIAMI LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL
PROJECT CITIZEN CLASS**

Contact: Perla Tabares Hantman

NEWS RELEASE FROM PERLA TABARES HANTMAN

May 21, 2009

As proposed by Board Member Perla Tabares Hantman, District 4, the Miami-Dade School Board endorsed an award-winning safety program developed by the students Miami Lakes Middle School Project Citizen Class. The program entitled, "Saving Pedestrians Everywhere Every Day" (SPEED), focuses on saving the lives of children through education, expanding school speed safety zones, and speed enforcement.

"The students who developed this program should be commended for their responsibility to their fellow students, and also for their commitment to safety," said Ms. Hantman.

Inspired by the tragic death of student Shaye Patrick Martin, who was struck and killed by a speeding vehicle in 2006 while on a sidewalk near school but outside the marked 15-mile-per-hour school zone, the students drafted the Shaye Patrick Martin Safety Act to promote safety changes at the legislative level. Miami Lakes Middle School will implement a number of initiatives as part of the SPEED Program, including a safety education program, encouraging the establishment of a "Slowing Down Zone" during designated school hours, and placement of speed cameras on school speed zone flashing lights.

The Project Citizen Class students are: Cristian Izaguirre, Third Year 8th Grade; Isabella Perez, Second Year 8th Grade; Karina Rios, Second Year 8th Grade; Jake Camacho, First Year 8th Grade; Michelle Chaviano, First Year 8th Grade; Max Garces, First Year 8th Grade; Kenneth Gonzalez, First Year 8th Grade; Kayel Guillen, First Year 8th Grade; Samuel Hassel, First Year 8th Grade; Michelle Lee, First Year 8th Grade; Melanie Delgado, First Year 7th Grade.

Earlier this month, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners awarded the students first place at the Miami-Dade Project Citizen Showcase. The students advance to the next round of Showcase competitions. Finalists will be chosen by the end of the month to compete at state finals during the National Conference of Legislatures.

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