

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Chair  
Dr. Marta Pérez, Vice Chair  
Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member  
Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member  
Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member  
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-016 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING A SAFE HAVEN FOR NEWBORNS**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools system has the opportunity to engage with many individuals, organizations, and initiatives whose contributions serve to better the lives of our children. In 2001, Nick Silverio created A Safe Haven for Newborns in memory of his wife, Gloria. The initiative is a venture of the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation which reinforces Florida legislation instituting safe haven facilities where parents can anonymously leave unharmed newborn infants, who might otherwise be dangerously abandoned, without fear of prosecution. The project, which began in Miami-Dade is committed to saving the lives of the most vulnerable of our children and has now spread across the state of Florida to all 67 counties.

The main component of the organization is a multilingual confidential helpline available 24-hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week. Through their on-going community outreach, A Safe Haven for Newborns has fostered partnerships with hospitals, fire stations, adoption agencies, social services agencies and the Florida Department of Health, ultimately creating a safety net of resources and services for pregnant women in crisis. By creating awareness and providing professional support, the main goal and mission of A Safe Haven for Newborns is to save the lives of newborns in danger of abandonment and to help preserve the health and future of their mothers.

Since its inception, over 250 newborns have been saved from abandonment in Florida, 4 in other states, and 1 in Honduras. A Safe Haven for Newborns, its volunteers, its board members and its founder, Mr. Silverio are to be commended for their unique and exceptional work in saving and preserving the lives of state's newborn babies and that of their mothers.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. SUSIE V. CASTILLO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-016 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing A Safe Haven for Newborns.

**Replacement  
B-10**

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-016  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING A SAFE HAVEN FOR NEWBORNS**

**WHEREAS**, created in 2001 by Nick Silverio in memory of his wife, Gloria, A Safe Haven for Newborns is a venture of the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation that reinforces Florida legislation instituting safe haven facilities where parents can anonymously leave unharmed newborn infants, who might otherwise be dangerously abandoned, without fear of prosecution; and

**WHEREAS**, committed to saving the lives of the most vulnerable of our children, A Safe Haven for Newborns began in Miami-Dade and has now spread across the state of Florida to all 67 counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the main component of the organization is a multilingual confidential helpline available 24-hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week; and

**WHEREAS**, through awareness and professional support, the main goal and mission of A Safe Haven for Newborns and its partners is to save the lives of newborns in danger of abandonment and to help preserve the health and future of their mothers.; and

**WHEREAS**, A Safe Haven for Newborns is to be commended for their unique and exceptional work in saving and preserving the lives of state's newborn babies and that of their mothers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-016 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing A Safe Haven for Newborns.

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

**Presented this fifteenth day of February, A.D. 2017**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary