

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



School Board Hearing Scheduled for Somerset Academy Contract

***Residents wishing to speak on the contract at the July 14 meeting
must first register with the Miami-Dade County School Board***

PALMETTO BAY, Fla., (July 7, 2010) – The Miami-Dade County School Board is considering approval of a charter school contract for a site located in the Village of Palmetto Bay. According to state statute, charter schools are public schools. The School Board serves as the sponsor and authorizer of charter schools. Pursuant to Chapter 1002.33 Florida Statutes, the School Board does not have jurisdiction over the placement of charter schools or charter facilities. However, pursuant to the Charter School Contract and School Board Rule 6Gx13-6A-1.471, the charter has to seek approvals to utilize existing or new school facilities from appropriate local municipality and/or county agencies.

The charter school contract between the School Board and Somerset Academy, Inc. on behalf of Somerset Academy (Palmetto Bay) will be considered for approval at the July 14, 2010, School Board Meeting. The Somerset Academy charter school is proposed to be located at the Old Cutler Presbyterian Church (OCPC).

The Somerset application is owned by the "Somerset Academy, Inc.," a non-profit corporation, based in Miami-Dade County. Academica will be the management company responsible for the operation of the charter school.

Based on Somerset's proposed contract, under the terms of this agreement the school will be open for children in kindergarten through 8th grade. The maximum requested enrollment for the first five years of the contract will expand from 433 (first year) to 900 students. The school's minimum requested enrollment for the first year of operation is 18 students.

Residents and/or interested stakeholders who wish to speak on the contract at the July 14, meeting must register with the School Board prior to the meeting date by calling 305-995-1128. The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Courtesy Notice of Proposed Location for Charter School is attached to this document.

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Incorporated in 2002, **The Village of Palmetto Bay** is a vibrant community of 25,000 residents nestled between Biscayne Bay and So. Dixie Highway, about 15 miles south of downtown Miami. The Village is governed by a five-member Council and operates under a Council-Manager form of government. Dubbed "The Village of Parks," Palmetto Bay offers an extensive system of attractive parks, unique recreational opportunities, and bay access. It also is home to several excellent public schools, and a robust commercial corridor along Dixie Highway offering a diverse range of restaurants, markets, and lodging. Specifically, the Village extends from the centerline of SW 136 St., south to the centerline of SW 184 St., expanding west to the centerline of South Dixie Highway (including the center island), and east to Biscayne Bay.

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