

# THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES



*The City Beautiful*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY HALL 405 BILTMORE WAY  
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134

September 24, 2018

Senator Rob Bradley  
Alternating Chair of the Joint Legislative Budget Commission  
201 Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Representative Jose Oliva  
Alternating Chair of the Joint Legislative Budget Commission  
221 Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Senator Bradley and Representative Oliva,

The City of Coral Gables supports Governor Scott's recommendation to redirect the unused funds in the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program to be equitably distributed to school districts for the purpose of hiring school resource and safety officers.

Although the City of Coral Gables has partnered with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to ensure police coverage at every public school within our municipality, we recognize that many cities have not been able to do the same, leaving the district to face the monumental challenge of staffing every single school facility with a police officer without adequate funding. Of the \$67.5 million dollars originally appropriated to the Guardian fund, only \$9 million has been used to establish guardian programs. The remaining \$58 million balance is sorely needed by school districts throughout Florida to meet the state-imposed mandates of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act (SB 7026) and to ensure the uncompromised safety of our children.

Therefore, I respectfully request your assistance in distributing the unused balance from the Guardian fund to school districts, based on each district's proportionate share of the state's total unweighted full-time equivalent student enrollment, to use for the hiring of school resource and safety officers.

If you have any questions regarding the City's position on this important matter, please contact my office at 305-460-5220.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Valdes-Fauli', written in a cursive style.

Raúl Valdes-Fauli  
Mayor