March 20, 2012

Mr. Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Main
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Assistant Attorney General Perez:

As Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, a father, and an American, I am heartbroken and deeply disturbed by the senseless and untimely death of one of my students, one of my children, Trayvon Martin. Each year we lose far too many young people to illness and accidents, but the death of a child as the result of a violent act is not only heartbreaking, it is cause for outrage. The apparent failure of authorities to properly investigate such a death is utterly unacceptable. Trayvon was killed on February 26, 2012, and some twenty-four days later, no charges have been filed or arrests made. Our American justice system is one that assures that all citizens are equal in the eyes of the law and that evidence, not conjecture or supposition, is to drive criminal investigations.

It is my understanding that your agency has agreed to conduct a thorough and independent review of this incident to determine if Trayvon’s civil rights were violated and I strongly encourage and fully support this action. Tragic deaths of young African-American and Hispanic men unfortunately occur too often and the continual loss of young lives to violence must be addressed and justice must not be delayed.

Sincerely,

Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

AMC: jjs
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cc: School Board Members
Florida Congressional Delegation
Congressional Black Caucus
Congressional Hispanic Caucus