

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
3500 PAN AMERICAN DRIVE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33133



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
(305) 250-5300

Tel: 305-250-5300
Fax: 305-854-4001
<http://www.miamigov.com/mayor>

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High School Students Assume the Roles of City Government Officials

- Students Are Members of the Miami Youth Council -

Miami, FL- Today students from the City of Miami took on the role of our government officials during the Miami's youth Council Mock Commission Meeting, from 10 am to noon, as part of the Miami Youth Council activities to familiarize students with their local government.

"It is important for our youths to see how government works, and to learn about their local government," said Miami Mayor Manny Diaz. "These children are our future leaders and this is the best way to get them involved from an early age."

A total of 77 students from Miami High, Miami Edison, Miami Jackson, Miami Northwestern and Booker T. Washington Senior High Schools participated in the event. These students are part of the Miami Youth Council, established by Mayor Manny Diaz during the 2005-2006 school year, in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and with funding from The Children's Trust. The Miami Youth Council combines community service, civic engagement, and leadership development for high school students in the City of Miami.

From five of the City's high schools a Youth Council is developed. Each of these Youth Councils receives training through the school-based "Project Citizen" curriculum which provides guidance as they identify and study a public policy issue, propose a solution, and develop an action plan for implementing their policy. The program is focused on increasing youth civic engagement and cultural competency.

Mayor Diaz, along with Commission Chairman Joe Sanchez, City Manager Peter Hernandez, City Attorney Julie Bru, Chief of Police John Timoney, and many other City Officials participated in the Mock Commission Meeting and guided the students through the a mock budget hearing.

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