



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#18-0764

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: July 10, 2018

TITLE: Motion to Approve One-Year Agreement with the School Board of Broward
County, Florida for School Resource Officer Program

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute a one-year agreement with the School Board of Broward County (SBBC), Florida for the School Resource Officer Program commencing August 8, 2018 and concluding on June 5, 2019.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department's School Resource Officer (SRO) Program assigns eight law enforcement officers to serve as School Resource Officers at seven secondary schools operated by the SBBC. Fort Lauderdale Police Department officers are assigned full-time on the campuses of New River Middle, Sunrise Middle, William Dandy Middle, Dillard High, Fort Lauderdale High, Stranahan High and Whiddon Rogers. The SBBC will contribute \$52,000.00 per officer for a total amount of \$416,000.00 per school year. The SBBC reimburses the same amount per officer to all participating Broward County law enforcement agencies.

While many of the terms of the SRO contract have been agreed upon by the City's and School Board's staff, the following represents the significant differences between the School Board's proposal and the City's proposed agreement. The differences consist of the following:

- **SROs Leaving the School Grounds for Emergency Circumstances or Other Law Enforcement Purposes:** The School Board's original proposed draft of the Agreement permitted the SROs to leave the school grounds to tend to an emergency circumstance or for other law enforcement purposes. City staff agreed with this provision. School Board staff has now removed this language and are requiring the SRO to remain on school grounds, regardless if an emergency situation arises off campus and the SRO is the closet responding officer.

- **Conflicts in Policy:** City and the School Board staff disagree on the interpretation of F.S. 1006.12, which, in part, states “(s)chool resource officers shall abide by district school board policies and shall consult with and coordinate activities through the school principal, but shall be responsible to the law enforcement agency in all matters relating to employment, **subject to agreements between a district school board and a law enforcement agency.** (Emphasis added). City staff’s position is that the SROs are City employees subject to both City and police department policies, therefore if a conflict exists between School Board policy and City/Department policy, the City/Department policy must take precedence. The School Board staff’s position is that the Statute requires the School Board’s policy to take precedence. However, their position does not take into account that the above-emphasized statutory language permits the parties to enter into an agreement to determine which policy takes precedence.
- **Overages and Unauthorized Charges:** Section 2.09(f) requires the City to repay any overage in excess 2% of the total billings to the School Board. Since the Agreement only requires the School board to reimburse the City for approximately one-third of the actual cost of providing the SRO, City Staff requested that this provision be deleted from the Agreement.

Resource Impact

There will be a current fiscal year impact to the City. The cost is included in the FY 2018 operating budget in the accounts listed below. Future expenditures are contingent upon approval and appropriation of the annual budget.

Funds available as of July 6, 2018					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	CHARACTER CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
001-POL030701-1101	School Resource Officers	Salaries and Wages/Permanent Salaries	\$639,038	\$90,396	\$72,800
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$72,800

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Public Safety Cylinders of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 9: Be the safest urban coastal City in South Florida through preventative and responsive police and fire protection.
- Objective 1: Prevent and solve crime in all neighborhoods.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community.*

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – 2018-2019 School Board Resource Officer (SRO) Program Agreement (City's proposed draft)

Exhibit 2 - 2018-2019 School Board Resource Officer (SRO) Program Agreement (SBBC's proposed draft)

Exhibit 3 – Email from Leo Nesmith, Ph.D., Interim Director, BCSB

Prepared by: Rick J. Maglione, Chief of Police

Department Director: Rick J. Maglione, Chief of Police