

Regular School Board Meeting September 20, 2016

II-6 School Resource Officer (SRO) Program Agreements – Fort Lauderdale – (2016-2017)

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program is a joint venture between The School Board of Broward County, Florida and fourteen law enforcement agencies in Broward County. The SRO Program serves to enhance the relationship between law enforcement and the students of Broward County Public Schools by assigning police officers and Sheriff Deputies to serve as resource officers at schools. The School Resource Officers perform multiple duties within a school including, without limitation to:

- a) the performance of law enforcement functions within the school setting;
- b) the identification and prevention of juvenile delinquency (including substance abuse) through counseling and referral services;
- c) the enhancement of student knowledge of the law enforcement function and of the fundamental concept and structure of law;
- d) the development of positive student concepts of the law enforcement community and promotion of positive interaction and enhanced relations between students and law enforcement officers;
- e) the provision of assistance and support for crime victims (including victims of abuse) identified within the school setting;
- f) the presentation of educational programs concerning crime prevention and the rights, obligations and responsibilities of students as citizens; and
- g) the provision of assistance to SBBC in protecting and securing the school plant and its occupants.

On March 15, 2016, the School Board approved agenda item II-2 School Resource Officer (SRO) Program Agreement – (2015-2016) with the City of Fort Lauderdale to provide eight (8) SROs in seven (7) schools. Specifically, the Agreement stipulates the City will provide seven (7) SROs for six (6) secondary schools and one (1) SRO for the one (1) center operated by the District within Fort Lauderdale. The current Agreement expires on September 30, 2016. The financial impact of the expiring Agreement is \$370,016 for the term of the Agreement.

In June 2016, staff initiated the process to renew all expiring SRO Agreements. It was staff's intent to renew the Agreements with same terms and conditions as the expiring Agreements. Subsequently, it was determined to amend the term of the SRO Agreements to align to the school year. This decision was predicated on the release of the internal audit report on the District's SRO Program and ongoing discussions with the Office of the Chief Auditor and Office of the General Counsel. Ultimately, it is believed realigning the term of the Agreements to correspond to the school year will simplify invoicing, avoid

the possibility for prepayment of services, and improve the ability to audit the payment of invoices in accordance to the terms of the Agreement because the term will no longer extend beyond the District's fiscal year.

To facilitate the realignment of the term, the renewal Agreement shall commence on October 1, 2016 and conclude on the last day of school (June 9, 2017). The renewal Agreements will also provide for only eight (8) payments. These eight (8) payments, coupled with the two (2) remaining payments under the current Agreement will provide for the full ten (10) payments for the 2016-2017 school year.

The SRO renewal Agreement being presented for approval to the Board on September 20, 2016 represents eight (8) SROs at the following seven (7) schools:

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>NO. OF SROs</u>	<u>SCHOOLS</u>
<u>City of Fort Lauderdale</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Middle:</u> New River, Sunrise, William Dandy
	<u>4</u>	<u>High:</u> Dillard 6-12, Fort Lauderdale, Stranahan
	<u>1</u>	<u>Center:</u> Whiddon Rogers

The renewal Agreement still stipulates the City will provide seven (7) SROs for six (6) secondary schools and one (1) SRO for the one (1) center operated by the District within Fort Lauderdale. The financial impact associated with this renewal Agreement is **\$296,012.80**. Again, the financial impact associated with the renewal Agreement is lower than last year's SRO Agreement because it provides for eight (8) installments and a shorter term to facilitate the realignment of the contract term to the District's school year.