

Continuation of Summary Explanation and Background

The ROCS program was established in the Broward County School District in the early 1980's to address theft, vandalism, and trespassing on school campuses during after school hours. The program consisted of thirty-two (32) law enforcement officers from the Broward County Sheriff's Office, various Broward County municipalities, the Florida Highway Patrol, and the District's Special Investigative Unit (SIU) Department. Also, the program primarily called for the participating officers to perform security related duties in exchange for free rent and utilities (which consisted of electric, water, sewage, and garbage) via the placement of mobile homes owned by the officers on the subject District school campuses. Prior to placement of the mobile homes, the District prepared the site that the mobile homes would be located. These relationships between The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC) and the officers were memorialized in individual agreements.

At the direction of the Superintendent of Schools, the Office of the Chief Auditor (OCA) conducted an audit on the ROCS program to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of the program and other related issues. In January 2015, the OCA issued a report titled "Internal Audit Report – Review of the Resident on Campus Security (ROCS) Program" (Audit Report). The Audit Report reported the following findings: (1). Annual statistical information on the ROCS program was not compiled or maintained by management prior to August 2013; (2). The lease agreements pertaining to all the ROCS program sites expired over five (5) years ago; thus since that time, the ROCS officers have been residing on subject District school campuses with no effective agreement; (3). The District's management of the ROCS program did not consistently ensure that ROCS officers complied with terms outlined in the then lease agreements. Subsequently, the Audit Report made the following recommendations: (1). The SIU Department should continue to prepare detailed incident reports which documents all alarm activations, and such reports should be sent to all schools bi-annually to enable review by the administration and/or school security; (2). A new lease agreement should be generated for execution by all ROCS officers and SBBC. Additionally, the agreement should include ... "a discounted monthly lease payment fee, payable by the ROCS Officer to the District; (3). Management should consider phasing out or restructuring the ROCS program ... "with a valid agreement containing clear special and general conditions, duties, reporting requirements, adequate monitoring of the program and the implementation of a discounted monthly lease payment fee".

In response to the Audit Report, the SIU Department gave a presentation to the School Board at the June 16, 2015 School Board Workshop in which it recommended that all the current ROCS officers should be grandfathered into the program, and that a new agreement should be developed including specific responsibilities for ROCS officers and a monitoring and reporting system.

The last lease agreement between Louis Anthony Marchese and SBBC became effective on February 22, 2017 and was slated to expire on February 21, 2020. Mr. Marchese recently sold the mobile home located on the School grounds to Mr. Goolsby. This new agreement incorporates pertinent recommendations made in the Audit Report and suggestions made by the SIU Department at the June 16, 2015 School Board Workshop. The term for this lease agreement is three (3) years, commencing on November 7, 2017 and expiring on February 21, 2020. It should be noted that all ROCS Agreements will expire on February 21, 2020.