



CITY OF COSTA MESA

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Agenda Report

File #: 24-289

Meeting Date: 8/6/2024

TITLE:

AGREEMENT FOR A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM BETWEEN THE CITY OF COSTA MESA AND NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

DEPARTMENT: POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESENTED BY: SCOTT STAFFORD, LIEUTENANT

CONTACT INFORMATION: SCOTT STAFFORD, (714) 754.5675

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council:

1. Approve the agreement for a School Resource Officer (SRO) Program between the City of Costa Mesa and Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

BACKGROUND:

In 2001, the Costa Mesa Police Department began an SRO Program with NMUSD. The program consisted of two full-time police officers to staff Costa Mesa's two high schools and one intermediate school. The program was viewed as a tremendous success and a benefit to all parties involved.

Since then, the City and NMUSD have entered into annual agreements in connection with the SRO Program. In September 2022, the Department committed a third officer to the SRO Program, which was outlined in the SRO Program agreement for FY 2023-2024.

ANALYSIS:

Since the SRO Program's inception, the primary mission of the SROs has been to prevent and deter school violence before it occurs. SROs help mitigate problems that might otherwise result in an emergency call for police services, thereby reducing the burden on Patrol Services and protecting those in the learning environment. SROs accomplish this by their presence on campus and regular interaction with school staff and students. In addition, SROs are a resource for students to advise of potential issues, which the SROs can proactively address and mitigate.

SROs are present on school campuses to ensure the safety and security of our schools. SROs respond to and handle all criminal acts occurring on school campuses or in the immediate vicinity. In this respect, SROs conduct the initial investigation on a variety of crimes such as child abuse, assaults, thefts, graffiti, and narcotics related crimes. They also provide immediate and direct support

to the school administration and security staff.

Pursuant to the proposed agreement between the City and NMUSD, the City will assign three full-time CMPD officers to serve as SROs at Costa Mesa High School, Estancia High School, and Back Bay Continuation School, and to provide assistance, as needed, at other schools throughout the City. NMUSD will reimburse the City for fifty percent (50%) of the total compensation paid to each of the three SRO's, including salary and benefits.

ALTERNATIVES:

No other alternatives have been considered. If the SRO Program were discontinued, the Police Department would have to utilize staffing from Patrol Services to handle any campus-related calls for service. This alternative would draw upon the resources in the field and render them temporarily unavailable in other parts of the community. There would also be no consistency in the services provided to the school district.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The combined annual salaries and benefits expense for three officers is estimated at \$1,030,000. NMUSD shares fifty percent (50%) of this cost is estimated at \$515,000. The remaining portion of the officers' salaries and benefits is included in the Police Department's FY 2024-2025 adopted budget in the General Fund (Fund 101).

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed this report and the agreement and approved them as to form.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS AND PRIORITIES:

This item supports the following City Council Goal: Strengthen the Public's Safety and Improve the Quality of Life.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the City Council:

1. Approve the agreement for a School Resource Officer (SRO) Program between the City of Costa Mesa and Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
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