




MEMORANDUM

Date: June 6, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Albert P. Childress 
City Manager

From: Sean Brandenburg
Key West Police Chief

Subject: **24-6002 School Resource Officer Contract FY2024/2025**

Background

The Florida Legislature passed the School Safety Bill in 2018 that mandates a School Resource Officer (SRO) be located in every public school and charter school in the State of Florida. To achieve compliance with this mandate, the Monroe County School District and KWPD have entered into annual agreements to staff these mandated positions. These Officers are assigned full time to the five schools located within the City of Key West, which due to the student body count being in excess of two hundred and fifty full-time students, require a full time SRO. These five schools are as follows; H.O.B., Poinciana Elementary, Gerald Adams Elementary, and Sigsbee Charter, which all have one SRO assigned. Key West High School, which is the largest school in the entire Monroe County School District, has two full time SROs assigned. There is also one Sergeant assigned in a rotating position to fill in for SROs who are at the jail, deposition, court, sick, on leave or need additional assistance. A total of seven full time SROs which are funded by the Monroe County School District. Since by law it is a requirement for an SRO to be present on campus anytime students are present if there is not an SRO available, KWPD must immediately provide an Officer to be present, which then falls onto KWPD's budget.

Our SROs attend trainings to stay compliant with latest juvenile laws, as well as learn the latest safety and security trends related to Schools. During these training courses, the largest of which is a week long each year in Orlando, they also do refresher courses on dealing with children and young adults with varying disabilities and mental health issues. Although we hope it is never needed, our SROs are the first line of defense in a worst-case scenario. It is imperative they have not only the training, but tools needed to protect our students and teachers. This often requires

specialty gear which can be costly. Contracts such as this help KWPD and the City, share that financial burden with the school board for the cost of the Officers, their equipment and the specialty training required to be effective at their very specialized job.

In summation, the Key West Police Department and the Monroe County School District Board is seeking the ratification of the attached 2024/2025 Safe School Officer Agreement to use KWPD officers as School Resource Officers in the 5 schools located in the City of Key West. As previously stated, 2 SROs are assigned at KWHS, 1 SRO is assigned to each of the following schools: H.O.B., Poinciana Elementary, Gerald Adams Elementary, and Sigsbee Charter. Additionally, 1 Sergeant is assigned in a rotating position. This will be a total of 7 funded positions provided to the School District.

The current proposal has added an electric golf cart to be used at KWHS solely for KWPD SROs, 8 LifeVac Dechoking Devices, 7 long rifles, and associated accessories. These items are contingent upon the MCSD approving their purchase in their upcoming budget to reimburse the City of Key West.

The current agreement expires on June 30, 2024.

Procurement

The MCSD reimburses the City of Key West for the SRO services, training, and equipment, which is a great partnership, so the City isn't required to Fund these items.

Options

1. To pass the proposed Resolution approving the 2024/2025 SRO Agreement with the School District. This will ensure that the public and charter schools in Key West will have the required law enforcement protections required under state law.
2. To Deny the proposed Resolution. Monroe County will not be in compliance with the School Safety Bill. Further, the City of Key West and KWPD will be responsible by law to provide these mandated SROs and fund the positions, training and equipment out of its own budget with no reimbursement.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission pass the proposed Resolution for the 2024/2025 school year.