

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL AND SUCCESSOR AGENCY



DATE: November 7, 2017

TITLE: School Resource Officer Agreement with Palm Springs Unified School District

Prepared by: Dale R. Mondary, Chief of Police

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager to execute a Law Enforcement Services Agreement with Palm Springs Unified School District for School Resource Officer Services.

DISCUSSION

For the past six (6) years the Desert Hot Springs Police Department has provided the Palm Springs Unified School District, specifically the Desert Hot Springs High School, a School Resource Officer (SRO). This Officer is assigned specifically to the High School to handle calls for service and other law enforcement matters at the school. Additionally, the SRO will handle calls for service at the Edward L. Wenzlaff Education Center as availability permits.

By having an officer dedicated specifically to the secondary education locations, it allows for an immediate response to the locations without having concerns of additional calls for service in the community. This officer is the liaison between the schools and the Police Department and has been able to identify most issues at the onset prior to them becoming major issues. The SRO also provides input to the High School Public Safety Academy and is a coordinator for the Police Department Explorer Program. Being on the campus, the officer is able to recruit students into the program. It also allows them the opportunity to create a relationship with the youth in the community in a non-threatening manner. The officer's knowledge of the student population has also assisted the Department in solving a number of burglaries, thefts, and vandalism where video and photographs have captured the suspect. Since juveniles, as a general rule, do not have mug shots available for comparison it can be difficult to identify a suspect even with the photographs. The SRO has been able to identify a number of juvenile delinquents due to her knowledge of the student population.

The SRO position has benefited the schools, the community and the department. By having a dedicated officer to the school, it allows them an immediate response of law enforcement while at the same time freeing up the patrol officers to be able to respond to other calls for service in the community.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no negative impact to the City General Fund. The Palm Springs Unified School District reimburses the City's General Fund for the full cost of the officer which, for Fiscal Year 2017-18 is \$120,369.00.

EXHIBIT(S)

- 1) Law Enforcement Services Agreement with PSUSD