

AGENDA STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 19, 2017

TO: Mayor and City Council

APPROVED BY: Armando G. Villa, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Gonzalo C. Gerardo, Lieutenant
For Chief R. Gomez

SUBJECT: School Resource Officers (SROs)

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Recommendation:

Recommend for the Calexico City Council to authorize the City Manager to sign and continue to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Calexico Unified School District for one (1) school resource officer for a two (2) year MOU. The recommendation comes from the meeting that was held with the CUSD Board President Lorenzo Calderon, Board Member Ciro Calderon, Superintendent Maria Ambriz, City Manager Armando Villa, Chief Reggie Gomez and Lieutenant Gonzalo Gerardo on Monday, June 12, 2017.

Background:

In the past, the City of Calexico and the Calexico Unified School District had an MOU that assigned two (2) SROs to the Calexico Unified School District. The SRO's provided police services to the entire school district. The SRO's in addition provided mentorship, leadership, educative, counseling, training of staff and students and prevention through police presence at the school sites. They SRO's role is more than the usual patrol response, they work to identify and assess threats and find solutions to them.

The optimal request was for the CUSD and City of Calexico to enter a three (3) SROs for a three (3) year MOU. This would've provided the opportunity for the SROs and the CUSD to develop a plan to not only enforce laws, but to train staff and make presentations to larger number of students. Thus, impacting the students and staff in improving their quality of life on school grounds.

The second option in which was agreed on during the meeting was for two (2) SROs for a (2) year MOU. This would provide the same as the optimal request above, but would limit the training of staff and presentations to a minimum.

The one (1) SRO for a (2) year MOU is only going to provide an officer to enforce laws. The officer assigned to the school district would not be able to make presentations or train staff and students during the days where school is in session. School police calls would take priority over presentations and staff and student training.

It is our understanding that CUSD is considering funding an additional school resource officer in the future.

School Resource Officer information:

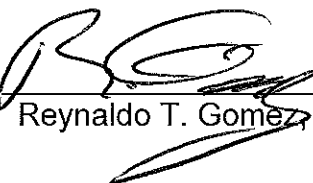
- **What is a school resource officer?** A school resource officer, by federal definition, is a career law enforcement officer with sworn authority, who is deployed by an employing police department or agency in a community-oriented policing assignment to work in collaboration with one or more schools. **(1)**
- **What are appropriate roles of school resource officers?** The goals of well-founded SRO programs include providing safe learning environments in our nation's schools, providing valuable resources to school staff members, fostering positive relationships with youth, developing strategies to resolve problems affecting youth and protecting all students, so they can reach their fullest potentials. NASRO considers it a best practice to use a "triad concept" to define the three main roles of school resource officers: educator (i.e. guest lecturer), informal counselor/mentor, and law enforcement officer. **(2)**

Discussion & Analysis: NONE

Fiscal Impact: NONE

Dates in effect from 08/2017 to 08//2019

Approved by:


Reynaldo T. Gomez, Chief of Police

***Notation (1) and (2) taken from NASRO (National Association of School Resource Officers)**