



YOUTH COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

May 12, 2021
Item 3

**SUBJECT: REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER
(SRO) PROGRAM**

SUMMARY

The Pleasanton Police Department has partnered with the Pleasanton Unified School District in providing two School Resource Officers since 2002. Staff is seeking commission review and program comments as well as opportunities to enhance the program.

RECOMMENDATION

Review and comment on the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

There is none.

BACKGROUND

School Resource Officers primarily serve the three Pleasanton high schools and three middle schools. This item is to share the history of the SRO program and discuss outreach efforts, highlights, and enhancements of the program since its inception. The SROs have an office at Amador Valley High School and one at Foothill High School. Although rare, they have also been allocated as a resource to assist with cases and/or student engagement at the nine elementary schools.

Some of the primary roles of the SRO are to provide a safe and secure campus, engage in student outreach to foster positive relationships between students and police officers, assist and collaborate with school administrators as needed (not in a disciplinary role), provide classroom and educational presentations, attend school activities such as sporting events and dances, and to serve as role models and mentors, to name a few of the many roles SROs hold.

Since the beginning of the community program our SROs have served as high school coaches, classroom teachers, guest lecturers, and mentors. The SROs have been adaptive and proactive in working with school administration and staff members to avoid students getting involved in the juvenile justice system. An example was when SROs saw an increase of incoming high school students receiving school discipline and getting arrested for various violations of the law. To educate and to deter new high school students from making similar mistakes as their peers, the Freshman Orientation was created and implemented. While working alongside school administrators, counselors, and the SROs, the program was an immediate success. A similar classroom presentation geared towards middle school students was created after seeing students get more involved in conflicts due to an increase of issues involving cell phones and social media. SROs are advisors for our Explorer Program to mentor and serve as role models.

DISCUSSION

The SROs participate and are assigned to this unique role after being determined as best suited for the position and after a selection process with the school district and police department. All SROs receive police department training in de-escalation techniques, conflict resolution and the use of restraint. The SROs are also recommended to participate in relevant school district staff training opportunities including, but not limited to, climate and culture training, mental health, basic child development and training in equity and cultural competence.

The commission is asked to provide input on the existing program and offer suggestions to enhance the SRO program.

Submitted by:



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