

CITY OF LA VISTA
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORT
MARCH 7, 2017 AGENDA

Subject:	Type:	Submitted By:
DISCUSSION - SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER	RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE ◆ DISCUSSION	BOB LAUSTEN POLICE CHIEF

SYNOPSIS

This item has been placed on the Council Agenda to discuss adding a school resource officer at the request of the Papillion La Vista Community School district. (PLC)

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND

In December 2016, the PLC Schools approached the Police Department with a proposal for addition of a school resource officer (SRO). PLC proposes to fund 50% of the salary and benefits for 12 month annually. A similar agreement was recently approved between the City of Papillion and the PLC Schools.

HISTORY:

The La Vista Police Department has always had a strong working relationship with the Papillion-La Vista School District. Since 1989, La Vista police officers have been in La Vista school classrooms at all grade levels teaching approved drug & alcohol and anti-violence curriculum.

In 1998, the Police Department approached the PLC Schools and proposed placing a police officer at LV Junior High. This was an approved position from 1998-2006, funded 100% by the city of La Vista. Duties included site security, teaching prevention programs at the school and serving as a law enforcement liaison. The position was based out of the school during the school year.

In 2007, staffing issues and reassignments necessitated a review of the justification for assigning an officer full-time at the junior high. Based on the reorganization and review (including calls for service at the junior high), a decision was made to continue to have a presence at the junior high on a part-time basis. In the 2007-08 school year, LVPD continued to teach prevention programs and serve as the resource/liaison officer. While there was a benefit of having a police officer permanently assigned to a middle school campus for duties other than crime prevention, the availability and deployment of limited police department manpower and cost effectiveness has to be taken into consideration. School districts in the Metro area, with the exception of PLC Schools, all had cost-

sharing agreements in place within the respective police/sheriff's departments to fund a portion of the officer's salary and benefits.

CURRENT:

The LVPD Special Enforcement Bureau, under the supervision of Capt. Bryan Waugh, is responsible for coordinating the department's efforts in the schools. Officer Jamie Brown is the department's official school liaison officer and is the key point of contact for building administrators. If administrators are unsure whether to report an incident, Officer Brown has made it known they can contact her for guidance. La Vista police officers are assigned to instruct the DARE program at the La Vista elementary schools and Officer Brown instructs law related education classes at La Vista Junior High. Capt. Waugh is coordinating the yearly school security audits in-conjunction with the PLVSD. Additionally, each school building within a specific patrol district has day shift officers who are responsible for policing activities in the area of the buildings. Officers update their status in the CAD (computer aided dispatch) system each time they are at a school.

As previously noted, the City has been approached by PLC Schools to consider adding a full-time school resource officer and has proposed funding one-half of the salary and benefits for the position. As a result, this is being brought forth for Council discussion.

If the Council desires staff to pursue this opportunity, an amendment to the FY18 budget will be prepared and presented during budget work sessions.