

Subject: Approve Contract with ISD 197 for School Resource Officer

Meeting Date: August 8, 2022	
Submitted/Presented by/Department: Brian Sturgeon, Chief of Police	
Action Type	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent Item	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Direction
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Informational Only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action/Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Action	
Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with ISD 197 to provide a school resource officer to the school district.	
Background	
<p>ISD 197 has had a school resource officer (SRO) in the high school since 2004. The West St Paul Police Department provided the first SRO to the district for a number of those years.</p> <p>The Mendota Heights Police Department took over the SRO duties for several years after the West St Paul Police Department. This year The Mendota Heights Police Department decided not to renew the contract with the school district. Last week, ISD 197 reached out to the City of West St. Paul and asked if we would take on those responsibilities once again. We are in the process of finalizing a contract with the school district but due to time constraints have not been able to finalize a contract for Council's approval at tonight's meeting.</p> <p>The City Manager, Police Chief and Superintendent of the school district will continue to work on a contract and send it to our attorney for review and approval. The most important part of this contract addresses compensation from the district to the City of West St. Paul. Compensation will be 75 percent of the officer's salary and benefits that is assigned to the school district as a SRO. 75 percent is about the amount of time a full-time equivalent officer will be at the district and correlates with the school year versus calendar year. When school is not in session, the SRO will be assigned other duties within the police department.</p> <p>The additional funding needed to make up the difference in an FTE and the reimbursement from the school district is in the proposed 2023 budget. As far as the costs in 2022, those funds are found elsewhere and the City Manager provided information on this topic during tonight's open council work session.</p> <p>This assignment would commence in September 2022. Now is the prime opportunity to add this additional staff member as we are going through a hiring process now and have some very good viable candidates for police officer positions. The SRO assignment will be a current experienced member of the police department.</p>	

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The SRO will be based out of Two Rivers High School but will connect with students and staff at all district facilities. They will also be the primary responder to calls for police services at the schools throughout the district. As a licensed peace officer in the State of Minnesota, an on duty peace officer has full police powers throughout the State of Minnesota so jurisdictional boundaries are not an issue.

This is a great opportunity for our department to be able to connect with students, staff, parents and guardians throughout the district in an effort to connect with the youth in our community, foster trusting relationships and expand our partnerships.

Because of the timing of this endeavor, staff is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with ISD 197 to provide a SRO to the district once the City Manager, Police Chief and City Attorney has a chance to review, make necessary changes if applicable and is verbally agreed upon by all parties.

Attachments

Previous Relevant Actions

Alternatives

No. Not provide SRO services to the school district.

Financial

Budgeted: Yes

No Financial Impact

Fund: 101

Department: 42100

Account: 40101

Amount: 25 percent of FTE wages