



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Michael T. Martinez, Chief of Police

**BY:** Zak Ayala, Police Commander

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arroyo Grande Police Department and the Lucia Mar Unified School District for School Resource Officer Services, Fiscal Year 2022-23

**DATE:** June 14, 2022

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### **SUMMARY OF ACTION:**

Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (agreement) with the Lucia Mar Unified School District will authorize the continued sharing of costs for an Arroyo Grande Police Officer to provide School Resource Officer Services for the 2022/2023 school year.

### **IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:**

The cost of the school Resource Officer position is approximately \$157,500 for Fiscal Year 2022-23. The proposed agreement shares the cost of the salary and benefits associated with the officer between the City and Lucia Mar Unified School District (LMUSD). The City will receive fifty percent (50%) of the cost from LMUSD, totaling \$78,750. These funds are included as estimated revenues in the proposed Mid-Cycle Budget Update for FY 2022-23.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve and authorize the Chief of Police to execute an agreement between the City of Arroyo Grande and the Lucia Mar Unified School District to share the cost of salary and benefits for one School Resource Officer position in Fiscal Year 2022-23.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Arroyo Grande Police Department has been providing School Resource Officer (SRO) services to the Lucia Mar Unified School District (LMUSD) since the early 1990's. The SRO Program is a collaborative effort between the Arroyo Grande Police Department and the LMUSD with the goal of reducing crime, drug abuse, violence, and providing a safe school environment. The SRO is a full-time police officer whose primary function is to address law enforcement concerns at their respective schools. The AGPD

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and LMUSD work closely in selecting the SRO by identifying specific traits that are essential to working in a school environment. The SRO works closely with school officials and administrators to develop positive relationships with the community, students, parents and school officials. While the position is housed at, and primarily assigned to, Arroyo Grande High School, the SRO is responsible for responding to requests from Paulding Middle School, Ocean View and Harloe Elementary schools. The SRO interacts with students from a variety of ages and backgrounds, often serving in a mentorship role.

**ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:**

The LMUSD has requested SRO services be provided for the 2022-2023 school year. The term of the agreement begins July 1, 2022, and ends June 30, 2023. This agreement is reviewed and considered annually.

The SRO position has been in existence since the 1990's and staff believes this program is extremely important to the City's public safety services and should be maintained. Given the City's demographics, a substantial portion of public safety issues are youth related. If the position were not dedicated to schools, it would require other Police Department patrol personnel to respond to a large volume of school related calls for service. The SRO historically provides advantages and efficiency of personal relationships and collaboration from being teamed with school administration to address safety issues in a proactive role, rather than responding after the fact.

Another highlight of this program is the ability for the SRO to provide counseling to students on both a formal and informal basis. The SRO regularly interacts with students and is often viewed as a role model. The SRO provides opportunities to forge beneficial relationships with staff and students, all the while being a visible deterrent to crime and other untoward behavior. The relationships that SRO's establish with students are enduring beyond students' graduation for personal and professional development. On-site law enforcement provides familiarity with the layout of the campuses and administration, as well as providing quick assistance with student safety emergencies.

During the LMUSD 2021-2022 school year (specifically July 1, 2021 to May 19, 2022), the SRO responded to 310 calls for service and completed 55 police reports. The Police Department has developed guidelines for the SRO with a multifaceted approach to provide services given the many health and safety requirements set forth by the State. The LMUSD has agreed to partner with the Police Department for another year of this program supporting the need to provide this valuable resource to the students, staff and the community.

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**ALTERNATIVES:**

The following alternatives are provided for the Council's consideration:

1. Approve and authorize the Chief of Police to execute the agreement between the City of Arroyo Grande and LMUSD to share the cost of SRO salary and benefits for one SRO position in Fiscal Year 2022-23;
2. Do not approve the agreement;
3. Provide other direction to staff.

**ADVANTAGES:**

The LMUSD will help the City of Arroyo Grande continue enhanced school safety by sharing fifty percent (50%) of the cost of the salary and benefits associated with the actual officer assigned to the SRO position.

**DISADVANTAGES:**

Non-approval will result in the Police Department being unable to dedicate an officer in the City schools on a full-time basis.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

No environmental review is required for this item.

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:**

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

**Attachments:**

1. Proposed School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding