



City of Largo Agenda Item 25

Meeting Date
06/05/18

Presenter: **Michael Loux, Deputy Chief of Police**

Department: **PD – Police Department**

TITLE:

CHARTER SCHOOL REQUEST REGARDING SB 7026

Deputy Chief Loux will discuss a request by the Charter Schools in the City to staff Charter schools with School Resource Officers as a result of SB 7026 "Marjory Stoneman Douglas HS Public Safety Act"

Budgeted Amount: **\$0.00** Budget Page No(s).: **NA** Available Amount: **\$0.00** Expenditure Amount: **\$0.00**

Additional Budgetary Information: **Not applicable**

Funding Source(s): **NA** Sufficient Funds Available: Yes No Budget Amendment Required: Yes No Source: **N/A**

City Attorney Reviewed: Yes No N/A
Advisory Board Recommendation: For Against N/A
Consistent With: Yes No N/A
Not Applicable

Potential Motion/ Direction Requested: **N/A**

Staff Contact: **Michael Loux, Deputy Chief of Police** X 7427 **mloux@largo.com**

Attachments: **Staff Report**



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Largo Police Department
201 Highland Ave NE
Largo, FL 33770

May 25, 2018

Subject: Staff Report: Charter School Reserve SRO's

The “Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act” (SB7026) brought about the requirement for every public school to have either a SRO or a guardian assigned to their campus for security. The City of Largo has the following public schools:

High Schools – The public high schools within the City of Largo have historically had SRO's assigned to them. Pinellas County Schools (PCS) reimburses us \$58,000 each year for two SRO's at Pinellas Gulf Coast and for one SRO at Largo High. While we have had two SRO's at Largo High, the second one has been historically been funded solely by the Largo Police Department. With the passage of SB7026, PCS has additionally provided reimbursement for the second SRO at Largo High School.

Largo High School (enrollment 1798 students) – Currently has two SRO's assigned as security. The City of Largo is reimbursed \$58,000 each for these two officers.

Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy (enrollment 248) - Currently has two SRO's assigned as security. The City of Largo is reimbursed \$58,000 each for these two officers.

Middle Schools

There are four public schools with middle school grades within the City of Largo. Three of them are listed below under “Charter Schools,” and the fourth one is Largo Middle School. Historically, the Largo Police Department has had an SRO assigned to Largo Middle School and is reimbursed \$58,000 from PCS for this officer.

Largo Middle School (enrollment 830)– Currently has one SRO assigned as security. The City of Largo is reimbursed \$58,000 for this officer.

Elementary Schools

There are nine public schools within Largo which teach elementary grades. Three of these schools are listed below under “Charter Schools.” The remaining six, public, elementary schools are required to have either an SRO or guardian for security, per the passing of SB7026. PCS had previously attempted to contract with the

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City of Largo to have an SRO assigned to each of these schools. PCS was willing to reimburse Largo at a rate of \$58,000 for each of these officers. The City Commission did not vote in favor of this agreement. As a result, PCS will be having the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office train Guardians to perform the security duties at these public elementary schools.

The public elementary schools which will have a PCS funded guardian assigned to them include:

- Anona Elementary (enrollment 455)*
- Belcher Elementary (enrollment 666)*
- Frontier Elementary (enrollment 605)*
- Fuguitt Elementary (enrollment 552)*
- Mildred Helms Elementary (enrollment 560)*
- Ponce De Leon Elementary (enrollment 537)*

Charter Schools

There are three public charter schools within the City of Largo. All three of these schools teach both elementary and middle school grades. The passage of SB7026 has also required them to either have an SRO or Guardian on the campus. The charter schools receive funding from PCS to cover the costs associated with having an SRO or Guardian. The funding that they receive is based on their enrollment numbers. While SB7026 applies to charter schools, it is the responsibility of each charter school's board to determine how to staff and fund coverage at their school.

Two of the three charter schools have reached out to the Largo Police Department and asked us to provide them with an SRO. These two schools (Pinellas Academy of Math and Science and Pinellas Preparatory Academy) each receive approximately \$41,000 from PCS to cover SB7026 security personnel costs. Both schools wish to use additional funding from their schools to have an SRO on campus.

Pinellas Academy of Math and Science (enrollment 663 plus an additional 200-300 with their campus expansion) – Teaches both elementary and middle school grades. They wish to use PCS, SB7026 funding in addition to additional funding from their budget to pay for an SRO on campus.

Pinellas Preparatory Academy (enrollment 724) - Teaches both elementary and middle school grades. They wish to use PCS, SB7026 funding in addition to additional funding from their budget to pay for an SRO on campus.

Plato Academy (enrollment 393) – Teaches both elementary and middle school grades. They will use their PCS funding to pay for a Guardian on campus.

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In response to the request to provide an SRO at the two public charter schools (Pinellas Academy of Math and Science and Pinellas Preparatory), a contract has been drafted which closely mirrors the contract existing between the City of Largo and PCS. This contract has been forwarded to the City Attorney's Office for review.

If the Largo Police Department were to provide an SRO at these two schools, it would be proposed that these SRO's would be reserve officers for the Largo Police Department. The below table illustrates the cost associated with providing two reserve SRO's to these two charter schools.

Salary	\$22.60 per hour x 1560 hours	\$35,256.00
FICA		\$2,800.00
Health (Dual)		\$13,000.00
Life		\$200.00
Worker's Comp		\$1,300.00
Sub Total		\$52,556.00
Relief Factor	\$52,556.00 x 1.2	\$10,511.20
Equipment & Supplies		\$6,600.00
Grand Total		\$69,667.20

The Pinellas Academy of Math and Science and Pinellas Preparatory would reimburse the City of Largo \$69,667.20 for providing them with a reserve SRO. Any contract entered into would be an annual contract with ensuing years subject to an annual cost escalator.



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