

**CITY OF COSTA MESA  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

August 29, 2005

To: City Council

Through: John D. Hensley, Chief of Police

From: Les Gogerty, Lieutenant

Subj: **POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE REGARDING S.R.O. PROGRAM  
FROM CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2005**

**BACKGROUND:**

At the August 16, 2005, City Council meeting, the Council directed Police Department staff to prepare a report on the current status of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program.

**ANALYSIS:**

The School Resource Officer program was implemented in May of 2001, and consists of two officers responsible for the city's two high schools and two intermediate schools. The School Resource Officers provide law enforcement assistance to school administrators and faculty due to their routine presence on campus. They also provide a resource to students and faculty for law enforcement related issues. School Resource Officers conduct special presentations and lectures in government classes, health classes, driver's education, and special education. They provide security for school dances, football games and other after school events.

In addition to providing an additional resource on campus, School Resource Officers handle all criminal investigations including initial reports, interviews, follow-up investigations and arrests. They also attend SRO monthly meetings, gang meetings, the School Attendance Review Board, Jade (Second Chance), and truancy meetings with staff and parents.

Staff was able to speak with the principals from three of the four schools including, Costa Mesa High School, Costa Mesa Middle School, and Estancia High School. All three were very supportive of the School Resource Officer program and believe that it has had a positive impact at their respective campuses. Kirk Bauermeister, principal at Costa Mesa Middle School and former vice principal at Costa Mesa High School told staff that he believes the officer on campus makes the students feel safer and as a result more productive. He believes this atmosphere has raised test scores and improved attendance. He said that he has also seen a decrease in gang activity on campus.

Dr. Tom Antal, principal at Estancia High School said that he believes the officer on campus is a great deterrent and believes incidents are less likely to occur. He also believes the officers are a great service for school activities outside of normal school hours such as football games and dances where in the past fighting and drinking have been a significant issue. Dr. Antal said that the only issue with the current program is that he has to share the officer with TeWinkle Middle School. He would also like to have an officer five days a week instead of the four days a week that they have now.

The recurring costs (salaries and benefits) for the School Resource Officer program, FY 2004-05, totaled \$264,682 dollars and the FY 2005-06 budget is projected to be similar. The costs are divided equally between the City of Costa Mesa and the Newport Mesa Unified School District per the agreed upon M.O.U.

**STATISTICAL DATA:**

The following are the School Resource Officer's combined statistics for the 2004-05 school year:

Presentations:	136
Investigations:	613
Meetings:	362
Students Counseled:	2,957
Arrests:	49
Citations:	18

Please contact me at (714) 754-5190 if you have any questions.

cc: Allan Roeder, City Manager