



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

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MEETING DATE: September 1, 2015

ITEM NUMBER: CC-11

**SUBJECT:** MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

**FROM:** POLICE DEPARTMENT

**PRESENTATION BY:** MARK MANLEY, POLICE CAPTAIN

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** MARK MANLEY, POLICE CAPTAIN, (714) 754-5043

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Costa Mesa and the Newport-Mesa Unified School District pertaining to the School Resource Officer Program for academic year 2015-2016.

## **BACKGROUND:**

In 1999, the Newport Beach Police Department entered into an agreement with the Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) to provide two police officers to staff a new School Resource Officer (SRO) Program for the two high schools and the one intermediate school located within their city. Their program was implemented in February of 2000, and is still in effect.

Based on the success of Newport Beach PD's program and interest from NMUSD, in 2001, our Police Department pursued an SRO program to provide two police officers to staff Costa Mesa's two high schools and one intermediate school. The City and NMUSD subsequently approved a Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of our SRO program for academic year 2001-2002. Since, this program has been viewed as a tremendous success and a benefit to all parties involved.

In 2012, the Police Department ceased providing two full-time SROs due to organizational contraction and staffing considerations that lasted the next few years. In the interim, the Police Department provided personnel to cover SRO responsibilities on an ancillary, collateral basis. However, in January of 2015, with improved sworn staffing, the Police Department assigned one full-time SRO to the program. The continuity of this officer has provided considerable stability to the program and enhanced service to NMUSD. The Police Department is now able to commit to two SROs to the school district in September for academic year 2015-2016.

## **ANALYSIS:**

Since its inception, the primary mission of the School Resource Officers is to prevent and deter school violence before it strikes. SROs help mitigate problems that might otherwise result in an emergency call for police services, thereby reducing the burden on patrol

officers. Often, SROs accomplish this by their mere presence on campus. In addition, many students will advise SROs when future trouble is anticipated, and the officers can then take steps to control it.

SROs are present on school campuses to ensure the safety and security of our schools. SROs respond to and handle all criminal acts occurring on school campuses or in the immediate vicinity. In this respect, SROs conduct the initial investigation on a variety of crimes such as child abuse, assaults, thefts, graffiti, and narcotics related crimes. They also provide immediate and direct support to the school administration and security staff.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

A possible alternative would be to discontinue the SRO program and handle any campus-related calls for service with the assigned area patrol officers. Such an alternative would draw upon patrol staffing and could potentially tie up patrol resources and render them temporarily unavailable in other parts of the community. The use of officers on overtime, or reserve officers, has historically proven inconsistent and does not provide NMUSD staff with a continuity of service.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

The annual salary and benefits cost for two (2) officers is \$430,498. The Newport-Mesa Unified School District will be responsible for half of the total salary and benefits, which is \$215,249. The City is responsible for the other half of the funding through the Police Department's budget.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

The City Attorney's Office has approved the Memorandum of Understanding as to form.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Costa Mesa and the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

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**MARK MANLEY**  
Police Captain

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**ROBERT SHARPBACK**  
Chief of Police

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**TAMARA LETOURNEAU**  
Assistant City CEO

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**STEVE DUNIVENT**  
Finance Director

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**THOMAS DUARTE**  
City Attorney

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [MOU BETWEEN THE CITY OF COSTA MESA AND THE NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)