



# Agenda Report

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, June 28, 2022

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** POLICE CHIEF ZAMORA  
POLICE CAPTAIN ANTONIO FIGUEROA

**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION APPROVING SCHOOL COMMUNITY POLICING  
OFFICER PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH PAJARO VALLEY  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITY  
POLICING OFFICER SERVICES AT WATSONVILLE AND PAJARO  
VALLEY HIGH SCHOOLS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023

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## **STATEMENT OF ISSUES:**

The Pajaro Valley Unified School District is requesting school-based police officer services at Watsonville and Pajaro Valley High Schools for the school year 2022-2023.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the approval of the School Community Policing Officer Program Agreement with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District for school community policing services at Watsonville and Pajaro Valley High Schools for the school year 2022-2023.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The City collaborated with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District in 1994 to develop and implement the school community policing officer program. During the first three years of the program, it was financed by the United States Department of Justice – COPS office. Over time and after the grant funding terminated the District and City continued to enter into an agreement to fund one full-time police officer at Watsonville High School. The original Resolution 5-94 (CM) was approved by City Council on January 11, 1994.

The school community policing officer program has been in place at Watsonville High School since 1994 and at Pajaro Valley High School since 2004, with the exception of the school year 2020-2021. The School District renewed the contract in school year 2021-2022 at Watsonville High School and now is requesting to add Pajaro Valley High School to the contract for the school year 2022-2023. The Watsonville Police Department will assign a school resource officer at Pajaro Valley High School as soon as additional sworn personnel is hired.

Staff recommends that City Council approve the school community policing officer agreement between the City of Watsonville and the Pajaro Valley Unified School District for the school year 2022-2023 for Watsonville and Pajaro Valley High Schools.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The approval of the School Community Policing Officer Program Agreement with the Pájaro Valley Unified School District for school community policing services at Watsonville and Pájaro Valley High Schools falls within the City Council's Strategic Plan under Public Safety (06). When students feel safe they are able to concentrate on academics. The initiative is a collaborative effort that will increase communication between police, administrators, teachers, parents, students, and mental health providers. The program intends to provide mentorship and reduce and prevent campus violence, student drug use, and create a safe and drug-free school environment.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

If approved, the City of Watsonville will be reimbursed for two (2) school-based police officer and related police services in an amount not to exceed \$369,096 for the school year 2022-2023.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION:**

The Council may choose to not participate in the program. The Police Department would only respond to Watsonville and Pájaro Valley High Schools calls for police service on a priority basis with all other calls in the City. Collaboration with schools and community-based organizations in building positive relationships with youth and in developing strategies for the reduction of school-based gang violence and drug use would not be as focused or structured. The Department's approach would be sporadic because the officer position would assume other duties. Lastly, police officers would still be responding to the calls for service and generating reports but the City would not have the cost sharing benefit the proposed program will provide.

**ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):**

None.