



# Agenda Report

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** INTERIM POLICE CHIEF SIMS  
POLICE CAPTAIN MICHAEL MCKINLEY

**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION APPROVING SCHOOL COMMUNITY POLICING  
OFFICER PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH PAJARO VALLEY  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITY  
POLICING OFFICER SERVICES AT WATSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR THE REMAINDER OF SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022

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## **STATEMENT OF ISSUES:**

The Pajaro Valley Unified School District is requesting school-based police officer services at Watsonville High School for the remainder of the school year 2021-2022.

## **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 High School for the remainder of school year 2021-2022.

## **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, with the exception of the school year 2020-2021. The School District is requesting the program be renewed for the remainder of the school year 2021-2022.

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 remainder of the school year 2021-2022 for Watsonville High School.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The approval of the School Community Policing Officer Program Agreement with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District for school community policing services at Watsonville High School would fall 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 one (1) school-based police officer and related police services in an amount of \$77,391 for the remainder of the school year 2021-2022.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION:**

The Council may choose to not participate in the program. The Police Department would only respond to Watsonville High School 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.