

CITY OF VENICE
Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Ed Lavallee

DATE: 7-19-2013

RE: School Resource Officer (SRO)

Attached is a proposed agreement between the City of Venice and the School Board of Sarasota County defining the provision of funds by the School Board to support School Resource Officers (SRO) in Venice schools:

Background

In the last school year, Venice High School had two assigned SRO's; one was provided by the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department and one provided by the Venice Police Department. The Sheriff's assigned deputy was subsidized 50% by the School Board. The Venice police officer assignment was wholly funded from the Venice Police Department budget.

In the spring of 2013, the City of Venice received notification that following the conclusion of the 2012/2013 school year the Sheriff's Department would no longer be assigning deputies to the local schools to function as SRO's. Subsequently, I contacted the Superintendent of Schools and requested financial support to continue the SRO program in Venice Schools. In that request I described a planned program expansion by the Venice Police Department that includes the assignment of a police officer to the Venice Elementary School as well as maintaining the SRO program at the Venice High School. The Superintendent responded with an offer of support in which the School Board will subsidize 50% of the cost of two Venice Police Officers for the next school year.

Enclosed is a proposed agreement between the School Board of Sarasota County and the City of Venice providing for a subsidy from the School Board totaling \$126,141.

The proposed agreement has been reviewed by the City Attorney for liability issues and by the Administrative Services Director for risk management issues. Both endorse execution of the agreement

Recommendations:

Approve the attached agreement between the School Board of Sarasota County and the City of Venice for the upcoming school year; said agreement provides a financial subsidy of \$126,141 to support the assignment of two Venice Police officers to the Venice schools