



City of San Marcos

City Council Work Session

October 19, 2021



Presentation

Item 1

(Res. 2021-173R) Discussion on the approval of the Terms and Conditions of an Interlocal Agreement between City of San Marcos and the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District (SMCISD) relating to the City's provision of Officers to serve as School Resource Officers; authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.



SRO's – shared goals and objectives

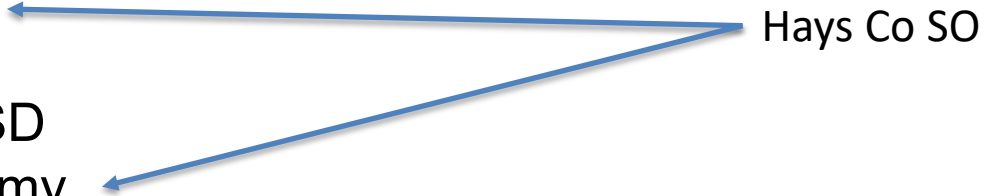
- Partnership began 1999-2000 school year and has been governed by an ILA ever since. Last approved August 4, 2020.
- Five officers assigned: two at HS | two at middle schools | one at Lamar Campus
- Investigations have historically involved: theft | assault | sexual assault | bullying | threats of active violence. Many of these crimes occurred off campus but are reported to SROs due to trust.
- All SRO's wear body-worn cameras and document law enforcement related detentions and/or investigations
- They are fully subject to SMPD policies and Event Review Board oversight



SRO's – shared goals and objectives

- Nearby ISD's that have police on campuses:

- Hays ISD
- Wimberly ISD
- Dripping Springs ISD
- San Marcos Academy
- Navarro ISD
- Comal ISD
- New Braunfels ISD
- Shertz / Cibolo ISD
- Austin ISD





SRO's – shared goals and objectives

- To demonstrate that the proposed ILA has already contemplated many contemporary issues related to academic research, I used an article found in Oxford Academic: *Blurred and Confused: The Paradox of Police in Schools*.
- (<https://academic.oup.com/policing/article-abstract/15/2/1546/5891350?redirectedFrom=fulltext>)
- The purpose of this article was to argue that the practice of adding police to campuses has blurred the boundaries between schools and police and, in turn, has created confusion about the roles of educators in safety efforts and of officers in education efforts.



SRO's – shared goals and objectives

- **Excerpt:**
 - “Some scholars, however, have raised the possibility that a police presence may be harmful. For example, research suggests that in some jurisdictions, it has contributed to the criminalization of behaviors, such as dress code violations and school disruptions.” (p. 1547)
 - Interlocal Agreement (ILA) Response:
 - “The DEPARTMENT is not responsible for complying with SMCISD’s personnel-related policies or the SMCISD Code of Conduct.”
 - “SMCISD will investigate school related issues...”
 - “SRO’s will not be allowed to ask students about their immigration status.”
Plyler V. Doe (1982)



SRO's – shared goals and objectives

- **Excerpt:**
 - “It is also possible that some teachers will expect officers to use a law enforcement approach to handle classroom misconduct.” (p. 1547)
 - ILA Response:
 - Duties actually enumerated: Protect lives and property | Enforce laws and ordinances | Investigate criminal activity | Counsel students, such as students suspected of engaging in criminal conduct | Answer questions about Texas criminal or juvenile laws | Assist other officers with outside investigations | Provide security for events or functions | Provide traffic control | Serve as liaison between campus and DEPARTMENT | Perform other duties that advance the SRO program



SRO's – shared goals and objectives

- **Excerpt:**
 - “Students may admit to the “counselor” [SRO] their participation in illegal behavior without fully realizing that they have shared incriminating evidence with someone who can use it against them...” (p. 1553)
 - Response:
 - In 2013, the State Legislature prohibited issuance of Class C citations for persons 17 or younger (decriminalize minor behavior)
 - The school district uses a disciplinary matrix for violations of school rules and do not involve police
 - Juvenile Probation uses *Probationary Supervisory Caution* to divert prosecutions for nonserious behavior
 - From 2015-2020, only five offenders sent to Texas Juvenile Justice Department (4 were for murder). All were off-campus related.



SRO's – shared goals and objectives

- **Excerpt:**
 - “...many officers receive relatively little training that focuses on working with at-risk youth or balancing the educational and safety missions of schools...” (p. 1555)
 - Response from ILA:
 - “Shall be a commissioned officer and should have (2) years of law enforcement experience”
 - Intermediate or Advanced Peace Officer Proficiency Certification
 - One SRO is intermediate; two are advanced; two are master peace officers
 - Shall have these courses: Child Abuse Prevention and Investigation | Use of Force | Arrest, Search and Seizure | Crisis Intervention
 - Our five officers have a combined 16,736 training hours!



SRO's – shared goals and objectives

- **Training, continued:**
 - These five SRO's have a combined 724 hours of school-based training
 - They are required to attend a 20-hour School Based Law Enforcement course with these classes:
 - Child and Adolescent Development and Psychology
 - Mental Health Crisis Intervention and Cultural Competency
 - De-Escalation and Techniques for limiting use of force
 - Mental and Behavioral Health Needs of Children with Disabilities or Special Needs
 - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, conflict resolution, and restorative justice techniques



SRO's – shared goals and objectives

- **Training, continued:**
 - SRO's are certified by SMCISD as trainers in SAMA (Satori Alternatives to Managing Aggression) in compliance with Chapter 89.1053 (k)(1) of the Texas Education Code (Adaptations for Special Populations). Such training is done to recognize the restraints used by SMCISD personnel on special needs and behavioral students.



SRO's – shared goals and objectives

- **What about abuse of power, as some have asked?**
 - SRO's are governed by Texas Local Government Code chapter 143, City of San Marcos Meet and Confer Agreement, City of San Marcos and SMPD polices and procedures.
 - Since 2020, the Department has implemented:
 - Event Review Board
 - Certified more Internal Affairs investigators
 - Revised UoF policy, restricted authorized pursuits
 - Adopted full use of Agency 360 with early warning indicator...



- Performance
- Officer Employee Evaluations
- Dashboard
- Users
- Reports
- Resources
- Search
- ADMINISTRATION
- Program Settings
- Night Mode
- Help & Support
- Logout

Reports



Report subject
All



Employee Performance Categories

Monitor employee's success across performance categories.

Employee



Supervisor Performance

Track supervisor grading trends across performance categories.

Supervisor



Incidents by Type

View employee incidents by the incident type.

Employee



Next steps

- **During regular council meeting, formally adopt the 2021-2022 Interlocal Agreement**
- This ILA was adopted by 7-0 vote of the school board on August 16, 2021. It is currently NOT in effect.
- Questions?