

RESOLUTION NO. 22R-07-138

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL URGING THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS FOR EVERY SCHOOL WITHIN BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER DENISE D. GRANT)

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 1006.07, district school boards are responsible for the health, safety and welfare of their students and "shall formulate and proscribe policies and procedures, in consultation with the appropriate public safety agencies, for emergency drills and for actual emergencies, including, but not limited to, fires, natural disasters, active assailant and hostage situations, and bomb threats, for all students and faculty at all public schools of the district comprised of grades K-12"; and

WHEREAS, following the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School mass shooting incident, the Florida legislature amended Florida Statutes, Section 1006.12, to state "[f]or the protection and safety of school personnel, property, students, and visitors, each district school board and school district superintendent shall partner with law enforcement agencies or security agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district, including charter schools"; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 1006.12(1), school districts may satisfy their requirement to establish or assign safe-school officers by implementing a school resource officer program through a cooperative agreement with law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 1006.12(1)(b), "[s]chool resource officers shall abide by district school board policies and shall consult with and coordinate activities through the school principal, but shall be responsible to the law enforcement agency in all matters relating to employment, subject to agreements between a district school board and a law enforcement agency. Activities conducted by the school resource officer which are part of the regular instructional program of the school shall be under the direction of the school principal"; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 1006.13(1), "[d]istrict school boards shall promote a safe and supportive learning environment in schools by protecting students and staff from conduct that poses a threat to school safety"; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes, Section 1011.62(13) created a safe schools allocation to provide funding to assist school districts in their compliance with sections 1006.07-1006.12, with priority given to safe-school officers pursuant to section 1006.12 and each school district shall receive a minimum safe schools allocation in an amount provided in the General Appropriations Act; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County School Board is responsible for providing safe-school officers in all 334 Broward County school, including charter schools, which is a critical component to ensuring and maintaining the safety of children and educational staff at schools; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County School Board does not have sufficient human resources to provide the necessary safe-school officers as required by Section 1006.12 at each school facility within the Broward County schools district; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County School Board has entered into agreements with multiple law enforcement agencies throughout Broward County to establish a School Resource Officer (SRO) program and to assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district, including charter schools; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost per SRO includes the salary, benefits, vehicle and other related ancillary expenses that the police officer incurs when assigned as a SRO at a Broward County school; and

WHEREAS, through the agreements with the local municipality law enforcement agencies, the Broward County School Board is only funding a fraction of the total costs of the SRO, and each municipality`s taxpayers are forced to fund the balance of the cost of the SROs, which amounts to double taxation to the taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the cost of each safe-school officer should be the responsibility of the Broward County School Board and the inadequate funding of the safe-school officers/SRO program places an additional unfair burden on the local municipalities equating to an unfunded mandate; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 1006.12, the Broward County School Board is responsible for the safe-school officers program and should increase the funding per officer, including salary and benefits, utilizing the average cost amount the municipalities in Broward County; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School mass shooting, the Broward League of Cities formed a School and Community Public Safety Task Force which discussed the disparate funding of SROs cross Broward County. The final report recommended that "the School district must increase the amount it participates in the cost of SROs. Actual costs are well above the current participation amount. There must be a permanent, stable and dedicated funding stream to ensure a uniform SRO program in all BCPS and Charter Schools"; and

WHEREAS, millions of dollars worth of funding from a 2018 referendum approving a .5 mill property tax for the Broward County School Board are set to expire. This .5 mill property tax currently funds school security personnel amount other things; and

WHEREAS, in August 2022, the Broward County School Board anticipates a ballot referendum question to increase the funding from .5 mill to a 1.0 mill property tax; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County School Board anticipates receiving an additional \$227,000,000.00 per year in revenue if the referendum passes; and

WHEREAS, due to significant increases in property values in Broward County, the Broward County School Board will receive even more revenue from the proposed increase in property taxes that previously estimated; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County School Board has approved a plan to spend 75% of the referendum funds on increasing staff pay and has further committed to spending up to 17% of those funds on school safety, including hiring 500 safety personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County School Board's commitment to spend up to 17% of the referendum funds on school safety and safety personnel should include a commitment to increase the funding towards the SRO program provided by the municipalities law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Florida legislature passed legislation imposing additional responsibilities and burdens on local law enforcement agencies. The new law mandates emergency drills for assailant and hostage situations, bomb threats and natural disasters and requires all law enforcement officers, including SROs, who are responsible for responding to schools during emergencies such as school shootings to be physically present on campus and directly involved in emergency drills. The law further requires all law enforcement officers, including SROs who are assigned to public schools to complete mental health crisis intervention training using a specified curriculum. However, funding for this additional training is not provided and thus results in an unfunded mandate for municipalities that provide SROs to the Broward County School Board; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County School Board will be reviewing its budget for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year and will be allocating its ad valorem taxes as well as the additional funding it receives via special levy and the safe school allocation provided in Florida's General Appropriations Act to fund safe-school officers/SROs; and

WHEREAS, in the Broward County School Board's budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the City of Lauderhill strongly urges that the School Board increase funding for the safe-school officers program/SRO program, on a per officer basis, to more accurately reflect the actual cost of the officers born by the municipal law enforcement agencies who contract to assign the SROs to the Broward County schools; and

WHEREAS, for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the City of Lauderhill had a shortage of police officers and could not afford to place any SROs in Lauderhill schools; and without increased funding likely will not be able to afford to place SROs this upcoming fiscal year in Broward County schools; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The foregoing Whereas Clauses contained in the preamble to this Resolution are incorporated by reference herein.

SECTION 2. The City Commission of the City of Lauderhill hereby urges the School Board of Broward County to increase funding for School Resource Officers for all public schools located within Broward County, Florida.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk is directed to distribute this Resolution to the School Board of Broward County, Florida, the Broward County League of Cities, and each of the municipalities in Broward County.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

DATED this 11 day of July, 2022.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on first reading this 11 day of July, 2022.



PRESIDING OFFICER

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK

MOTION L. Martin
SECOND S. Martin

M. DUNN Yes
D. GRANT Yes
L. MARTIN Yes
S. MARTIN Yes
K. THURSTON Yes

Approved as to Form



W. Earl Hall
City Attorney



City of Lauderhill

City Commission
Chambers at City Hall
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File Details

File Number: 22R-4670

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| File ID: 22R-4670 | Type: Resolution | Status: Agenda Ready |
| Version: 1 | Reference: | In Control: City Commission Meeting |
| | | File Created: 06/29/2022 |
| File Name: Support increase in SRO Funding | Final Action: | |

Title: RESOLUTION NO. 22R-07-138: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL URGING THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS FOR EVERY SCHOOL WITHIN BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER DENISE D. GRANT).

Notes:

Sponsors:

Enactment Date:

Attachments: RES-22R-07-138-Support SRO Funding Increase.pdf

Enactment Number:

Contact:

Hearing Date:

* **Drafter:** apetti@laudershill-fl.gov

Effective Date:

Related Files:

History of Legislative File

| Ver- sion: | Acting Body: | Date: | Action: | Sent To: | Due Date: | Return Date: | Result: |
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Text of Legislative File 22R-4670

RESOLUTION NO. 22R-07-138: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL URGING THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS FOR EVERY SCHOOL WITHIN BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER DENISE D. GRANT).

Request Action:

Pass a Resolution to urge the School Board of Broward County to increase the funding for all School Resource Officers in Broward County.

Need:

To increase School Resource Officer funding.

Summary Explanation/ Background:

The level of funding for School Resource Officers (SROs) in Broward County is not sufficient to reimburse the city's for the actual costs incurred to provide the police officers to serve as School Resource Officers. As a result, the city's have to pay the difference in the salaries and benefits for the police officers to serve as SROs. This puts a strain on the cities budgets and resources. Various cities have passed similar resolutions urging the School Board of Broward County to increase the level of funding for SROs in Broward County.

Attachments:

Number all attachments consecutively.

Cost Summary/ Fiscal Impact:

Include projected cost, approved budget amount and account number, source of funds, and any future funding requirements

Estimated Time for Presentation:

Master Plan:

Goal 1: Clean, Green Sustainable Environment

- Increase mass transit ridership
- Reduce City energy consumption
- Reduce water consumption

Goal 2: Safe and Secure City of Lauderhill

- Crime in lower 50% in Broward
- Residents feel safe in neighborhood
- Reduce emergency fatalities

Goal 3: Open Spaces and Active Lifestyle for all ages

- Increase participation in youth sports
- Add new park land and amenities
- Increase attendance at cultural programs and classes

Goal 4: Growing Local Economy, Employment and Quality of Commercial Areas

- Increase commercial tax base
- Increase employment in Lauderhill businesses
- Decrease noxious and blighted uses in commercial areas

Goal 5: Quality Housing at all Price Ranges and Attractive Communities

- Neighborhood signs and active HOAs
- Housing & streets improved, litter reduced
- Increase proportion of single family homes and owner occupied housing

Goal 6: Efficient and Effective City Government, Customer Focused & Values Diversity

- Improves City efficiency
- Increase use of Information Technology
- Increases residents perception of Lauderhill as an excellent place to live