

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
AND THE TOWN OF HOWEY IN THE HILLS, FOR
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM [2025-2026]**

This **AGREEMENT** is entered into by and between the **Town of Howey in the Hills**, a Florida municipal corporation, hereinafter referred to as “LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” and the **School Board of Lake County, Florida**, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, hereinafter referred to as “SCHOOL BOARD”.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the SCHOOL BOARD is seeking three (3) School Resource Officers (SROs) to interact with students during the regular class schedule and at extra-curricular school activities so as to provide additional security to students, school personnel, the school community and school property; and

WHEREAS, the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY is willing to place three (3) **Town of Howey in the Hills** Police Officers at **Lake Hills School (1), Academy at Lake Hills North (1), Lake Success Academy (1)** for the purpose of carrying out this school program.

NOW, THEREFORE, in and for consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereby agree that the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY will provide three (3) sworn **Town of Howey in the Hills** Police Officers who are certified pursuant to Section 943.10(1) *Florida Statutes* to the SCHOOL BOARD to act as SROs at the three (3) designated schools under the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

1. Term of Agreement. The term of this Agreement shall be for the next school year, beginning the 11th day of August 2025 through the last day of school for students in May 2026.

2. Compensation. The SCHOOL BOARD will pay the **Town of Howey in the Hills** an amount equivalent to the exact services rendered for that portion of the salary and benefits of the SRO(s) directly attributable to services performed provided pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. Such compensation shall be invoiced to the SCHOOL BOARD by the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY in monthly installments following the services rendered for the month, commencing on the 1st day of September 2025 for services rendered beginning August 11,

2025 and continuing on the 1st day of each month thereafter until the term of the contract has expired. Invoices shall be paid by the SCHOOL BOARD within fifteen (15) days of receipt. In the event that The Board of County Commissioners of Lake County, Florida, agrees to pay for any or all of the police officers assigned to the schools pursuant to this Agreement, then the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY agrees that the SCHOOL BOARD may assign its obligation to pay under this section to The Board of County Commissioners of Lake County, Florida.

3. Scope. The LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY shall assign an SRO for three (3) designated schools. The SROs shall interact with students and provide security at the three (3) designated schools. In addition, the SROs shall have the duties and responsibilities listed in Exhibit “A” attached hereto.

4. Background Investigations. The LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY represents and warrants to the SCHOOL BOARD that the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY has read and is familiar with Sections 1012.32, 1012.465, 1012.467 and 1012.468, *Florida Statutes* regarding background investigations. The LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY covenants to comply with all requirements of the above-cited statutes and shall provide SCHOOL BOARD with proof of compliance upon request. The LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY agrees, to the extent permitted by law and only to the extent permitted by 768.28, *Florida Statutes*, to indemnify and hold harmless the SCHOOL BOARD, it’s officers, agents and employees from any liability in the form of physical injury, death, or property damage resulting from the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY’s failure to comply with the requirements of this paragraph or Florida Statute Sections, 1012.32, 1012.465, 1012.467 and 1012.468, *Florida Statutes*. Any claim against the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY by the SCHOOL BOARD under the preceding sentence shall not include punitive damages or any interest for the period before judgment. Additionally, the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY shall not be liable pursuant to this indemnity to pay a claim or judgment by any one person which exceeds the sum of \$200,000 or any claim or judgment, or portions thereof, which, when totaled with all other claims or judgments paid by the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY arising out of the incident or occurrence, exceeds the sum of \$300,000. Further, nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as an admission of liability on behalf of the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

5. Assignment of Officers. The LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY shall determine which SROs will be assigned under this Agreement and will also determine the particular school to which the SROs will be assigned to. The LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY shall provide a notice of the assigned SROs to the school principals of the three (3) designated schools. In the event that the principal of the school where the SRO is assigned believes that the particular SRO is not effectively performing his/her duties and responsibilities, the Principal shall notify the SCHOOL BOARD's Director of Safety and Security in writing. If the situation is not corrected within three (3) working days, the SCHOOL BOARD's Director of Safety and Security shall contact the SRO's immediate supervisor and the Superintendent in writing and provide a copy of said notice to each of them. If the situation is not resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the SRO's immediate supervisor the SCHOOL BOARD's Director of Safety and Security and the Superintendent within ten (10) days, or if, during the same contract period, the Principal determines for a second time that the SRO is not effectively performing his/her duties and responsibilities, then the Principal shall recommend to the SCHOOL BOARD's Director of Safety and Security and Superintendent that the SRO be removed from the program at his/her school, and shall state the reasons as well as the efforts to resolve the problems in writing. The Superintendent, or his/her designee, shall review the request and, if approved, shall provide written notification to the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY who shall transfer the SRO or take other appropriate action within ten (10) business days. In the event the Principal considers the SRO's conduct to present a threat to the safety or well-being of the students or staff, the principal will immediately notify the SCHOOL BOARD's Director of Safety and Security, Superintendent, and the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. Upon receipt of such notification, the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY shall take appropriate and necessary action.

6. Dismissal/Replacement/Absence. The LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY may dismiss or reassign SROs with or without cause. In the event of the resignation, dismissal, or reassignment of an SRO, or in the case of long-term absences by an SRO, the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY shall provide a temporary replacement for the SRO as soon as practical.

7. Leaves/Coverage. The Chief of Police or another designated scheduling officer will approve vacations, sick leaves, and other leaves of absence for the SRO. The SRO will

communicate approved vacation, sick leaves, trainings or any other leave that impacts SRO presence in schools with the SCHOOL BOARD's Director of Safety and Security. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY shall provide coverage of an SRO during any time in which the SRO will be off campus of the school to include, but not be limited to vacations, sick leaves, other leaves of absence, or due to other related assignments.

8. Hours of Assignment. The SROs will be stationed at the three (3) designated schools for eighty (80) hours per two-week period, Monday through Friday, as assigned and scheduled by the respective school Principal and as approved by the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

9. Additional Hours of Assignment. Additional hours of assignment during a two-week period may be made with prior approval of the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, if requested by the respective school Principal. If the additional hours worked requires additional compensation be paid to the SROs, the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY will include this additional compensation on the next monthly invoice to be paid by the SCHOOL BOARD.

10. Off Campus Assignments. Upon the request of the respective school Principal and with the prior approval of the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, an SRO's duties may occasionally include his/her assignment at school functions and activities that are held off campus.

11. Reassignment in Emergency Situations. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent or interfere with the ability of the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY to temporarily withdraw an assigned SRO from his/her post at the three (3) designated schools to respond to emergency situations as determined in the sole judgment and discretion of the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

12. Supervising Authority. During the term of this Agreement, the SROs assigned shall remain employees of the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, under the authority of the chain of command of the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, and subject to all other rules and regulations of the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. The SROs will report to their respective school Principal for assignment of duties and work schedules, including the extracurricular activities during the regular school day, for up to eighty (80) hours for each officer per two-week period.

Each SRO shall remain, at all times, an employee of the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. Workers Compensation coverage, as required by law, will be provided for the officer by the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

13. Salary and Benefits. The LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY will provide the salary and benefits to each SRO assigned, including uniforms and equipment and any applicable overtime pay as agreed to above.

14. Vehicle. The LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY will provide vehicles for SROs if or when determined necessary by the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

15. Threats to School Safety.

A. Pursuant to Section 1006.13(4), *Florida Statutes*, any acts that pose a threat to school safety, whether committed by a student or adult, shall be reported to the School Principal, or his or her designee, who shall report the acts to the SRO and the SCHOOL BOARD's Director of Safety and Security or SCHOOL BOARD's District Threat Management Coordinator.

B. If requested by the School Principal, or his or her designee, the SRO, or other appropriate law enforcement officers, shall assist in the investigation of the acts that pose a threat to school safety; upon conclusion of the investigation, the SRO shall report the findings of the investigation to the SCHOOL BOARD's Director of Safety and Security, or SCHOOL BOARD's District Threat Management Coordinator to properly document the disposition of the incident. Additionally, the School Principal, or his or her designee, shall consult with SRO concerning appropriate delinquent acts and crimes.

16. Termination of Agreement. This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days written notice. Notice shall be deemed given as of the date of deposit of such written NOTICE in the course of transmission in the United States Postal Service and addressed as follows:

SCHOOL BOARD:

Superintendent of Schools
School Board of Lake County
201 West Burleigh Boulevard
Tavares, FL 32778

LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCY:

Chief of Police
Town of Howey Police Department
111 North Palm Avenue
Howey in the Hills, FL 34737

Upon termination pursuant to this subsection, payment will be made by the SCHOOL BOARD or reimbursement made by the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY based on a pro rata charge for services for that portion of the school year covered by this Agreement prior to termination.

17. Entire Agreement. This Agreement embodies the entire agreement and understanding between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereto and supersedes all prior Agreements, representations and understandings either oral, written or otherwise relating thereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the respective dates under each signature.

“SCHOOL BOARD”

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY,
FLORIDA**

By: _____
Tyler Brandenburg, Chairperson

Date: _____

Approved as to form:

Attest: _____
Diane S. Kornegay, Superintendent

School Board Attorney

“LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY”

TOWN OF HOWEY IN THE HILLS, FLORIDA

By: _____
Graham Wells, Mayor

Date: _____

Approved as to form:

Attest: _____
Signature / Title

Town of Howey Attorney

EXHIBIT “A”

In addition to the routine duties and responsibilities of the SROs, the SROs shall have the following specific duties and responsibilities:

1. Each SRO shall at all times perform his/her duties in accordance with Town of Howey Police Department’s standard operating procedures.
2. The SRO shall serve as resource instructors providing programs in crime prevention that encourage students to become responsible citizens.
3. The SRO shall also assist the orderly flow of traffic on school grounds.
4. Each SRO shall maintain all law enforcement powers, duties, and responsibilities inclusive of his/her position as Town of Howey Police Officers while assigned to the SRO program.
5. Each SRO shall be responsible to his/her agency in all matters relating to employment; however, activities conducted by the SRO which are part of the regular school instruction program shall be under the direction of the Principal or his/her designee.
6. Each SRO shall be at his/her school during normal school hours of operation and shall utilize the school’s computer-based visitor management system to sign in and out to verify attendance. During times that the SRO is unable to be on campus or need to leave campus, those times will be coordinated with the Principal or his/her designee and each SRO’s supervisor. The SRO supervisor will assure that the School has a replacement SRO on campus.
7. The SRO shall perform such duties as directed by his/her agency when school is not in session. The Principal or his/her designee shall advise the Officer’s supervisor of the school’s calendar.
8. The SRO may contact students during school hours in conjunction with a criminal investigation so long as such contact does not interfere with or impede the orderly operation of the school or the rights of the individual students.
9. All student record information will be maintained in accordance with the provisions of Florida Statutes.
10. The SRO shall interface with students between class breaks, during lunch periods, before and after school and at school activities at which the SRO is in attendance. The SRO will not be assigned to a permanent school related duty post so as not to establish predictable patterns.
11. In the interest of maintaining a safe and orderly school environment, student and campus supervision is of critical importance. The SRO shall take a prominent role in supervision responsibilities, which shall be coordinated with and agreed to by the SRO and the designated

school Principal. While school is in session, the SRO shall be present on and around the school campus except as permitted in paragraph 6 of this Exhibit A.

12. The SRO shall serve as a referral resource for students, faculty, and parents to community agencies.

13. The SRO shall serve as a Law Enforcement resource to school administration and the District Director of Safety and Security.

14. The SRO shall be familiar and offer support with the plans and strategies for the prevention and control of dangerous situations at the school.

15. The SRO shall be familiar with and shall remain up to date with school safety legislation, specifically Rule 6A-1.0018, F.A.C. and all corresponding Florida Statutes. Accordingly, the SRO shall assist school administration with ensuring compliance with State legislation and District best practices.

16. The SRO, or a designated officer of the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, shall serve as the mandated sworn law enforcement officer on the School-Based Threat Management Team (SBTMT); and accordingly will complete the required Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Model (Florida Model) training in accordance with State Board Rule 6A-1.0018, F.A.C. and §1006.07, Florida Statutes.

17. The SRO and responding LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY shall be present and shall actively participate in all active assailant drills, as per State Board Rule 6A-1.0018, F.A.C. [House Bill 1421 (2022)]. The presence of the SRO and each Officer shall be documented in the After Action Report submitted by school administration.

18. The SRO, in accordance with §394.463, Florida Statutes, shall take the lead with or assist District mental health personnel with initiating involuntary examinations for students and staff who meet criteria as defined in Statutes.

19. The SRO will coordinate / consult with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) as necessary to provide necessary support for children and / or families in need.

20. The SRO shall coordinate activities with the school administration and the school guidance department in an effort to identify those students who exhibit indications of early delinquent behavior.

21. The SRO shall attend meetings of school faculty and requested administrative meetings during school hours on a regular basis.

22. The SRO shall not act as a school disciplinarian, as disciplining students is a school responsibility. However, the principal shall contact the SRO for any violations of the law, and the SRO shall determine whether law enforcement action is appropriate.

23. The SRO shall take law enforcement action as necessary and as permitted under Florida law and shall inform the school Principal of such action unless it would impede a criminal investigation, under such circumstances as practical. The SRO shall take appropriate law enforcement action against intruders and unwanted guests who may appear at the school and related school functions, to the extent that the SRO may do so under the authority of law. Whenever practical, the SRO shall advise the Principal before requesting additional law enforcement assistance on campus.

24. The SRO shall be informed by school personnel of any situation occurring on school grounds that would appear to be a violation of the law of criminal nature.

25. The SRO shall maintain detailed accurate records of his/her activities, and provide a written daily report to the LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY who shall provide such information to the Safety and Security Department of the SCHOOL BOARD.

26. The SRO and school administration shall work together to keep each other informed during the course of all criminal investigations as permitted by law and as practical. This provision shall not be interpreted so as to interfere with or impede the SRO's law enforcement duties, obligations, and/or powers.

27. The SRO shall work with school administration when determining whether an arrest should be made, or if there is an alternative solution to the incident which would still be in compliance with Florida law. The final decision on whether arrest is appropriate will lie with the attending SRO or other law enforcement officer on scene at the incident. This provision shall not be interpreted so as to interfere with or impede the SRO's law enforcement duties, obligations, or powers.

28. The SRO shall affect a physical arrest for felonies committed on school grounds, particularly those that are "Zero Tolerance", as permitted by law.

29. The SRO shall give assistance to other law enforcement officers and government agencies in matters regarding his/her school assignment, whenever necessary.

30. The parties shall comply with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA").