

BROWARD LEAGUE OF CITIES

SRO Task Force

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

10:00 AM

Governmental Center, Room 122

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

Minutes of Meeting

Co-Chairs Councilmember Susan Starkey and Mayor Mike Ryan called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. Present was Mayor Debby Eisinger, Chief David Golt, Mayor Pamela Bushnell, Chief Dwayne Flournoy, David Wallace, School Board Member Nora Rupert, Commissioner Jed Shank, Commissioner Sharon Fyffe, Shelley Eichner and Vice Mayor Bobby DuBose. Also present was Executive Director Rhonda Calhoun, John Nesterak, Robert Dinkel, Karen Ghezzi, School Board Member Robin Bartleman and Executive Assistant Sely Cochrane. Upon motion of Chief Golt, seconded by Mayor Bushnell, the minutes of 1-10-12 were approved as presented. Mayor Ryan introduced Chief Golt to make a presentation on the information requested of him at the last SRO Task Force meeting. Chief Golt apologized for not being able to get all the requested information in the 3 day turnaround time. He did say he will get the breakdown of every school and where the students come from. He first discussed the number of schools for 2011-2012. Mayor Eisinger pointed out that there are currently 76 charter schools and that number is expected to grow and they have no requirements for an SRO. Pembroke Pines fully funds there Charter School SROs. They reviewed the list of schools with SRO in all Schools and the schools with no SRO. Vice Mayor DuBose asked whether the SRO from Whiddon Rogers goes into classes at Seagul School and Chief Golt will find that out and return with that information.

The Task Force then reviewed the shared SRO's by School. The only schools that currently share SROs are elementary schools. The schools either share one SRO for 2 schools or one SRO for 3 schools. They then reviewed the 2011-2012 SROs broken down by city and the SRO projected payments for 2011-2012. The projections for 2012-2013 should remain the same except for the addition of Silver Lakes in North Lauderdale. Co-Chair Starkey requested a breakdown of dollar amount for each city in the BSO contract. School board member Rupert asked how the determination is made for placing the SROs. The cities determine the staffing for the SRO program. With the retired officer program it may be more feasible to place SROs in schools where SROs have been removed.

Co-chair Starkey inquired about the BSO contract cities having SROs in their elementary schools. They do not. It's up to the city to decide to whether to supplement the cost of the SRO program.

The task force reviewed the survey conducted by the Broward County School Board Police department a couple of months ago of different counties around the state and how they handle their SRO program. Questions included how many full time SROs are currently assigned, whether there was a contractual agreement with local law enforcement agency, how is the program funded and whether schools had a school security police department separate from the SRO program.

Co-Chair Ryan asked Chief Golt to summarize the models used. In some models the Law enforcement funds everything, a small number is fully funded by the school district, some have their own school police department and some are split like Broward County's current model. Unless the model has a similar population to our county, comparing the models for funding is not equivalent. Hillsborough is a comparable county and they use Safe School grant funding. Chief Golt will research to see how much Broward County receives from Safe School grants and what it is spent on.

The Task Force reviewed the School City and Student number matrix. Co-Chair Ryan stated that this information would need to be further broken down by elementary, middle and high school but did not want that to be the framework for the development of a model. Shelley Eichner shared that the suggestion that had come out of the Management and Efficiency study was to develop a per pupil cost and figure out how many SROs are necessary and charge all cities whether they have a school or not because that is the most equitable way. Co-Chair Ryan decided to invite a representative from NASRO and FASRO in addition to the principals and PTA director for input. He stated that the task force needed to research to support why SROs are beneficial in elementary school, as well as looking into funding models and data analysis. Co-Chair Ryan and Co-Chair Starkey will advise the committee of the next meeting date. Chief Flournoy suggested also including an outline of the academic component, curriculum, and hours spent teaching, etc., to evaluate cost effectiveness of the SRO program.

Upon motion of Bobby DuBose, seconded by Mayor Eisinger, the meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM.