

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 9/30/04
Department Name: Sheriff
Department No.: 032
Agenda Date: 10/12/04
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jim Anderson
SHERIFF

STAFF CONTACT: Cmdr. Jeff Meyer
x4136

SUBJECT: Transition of Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education (DARE) Deputies to School Resource Deputies (SRD)

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive a report outlining the transition of deputies from DARE positions to School Resource Deputy positions.
2. Receive letters of support for the School Resource Deputy program from the area schools.
3. Accept a Budget Revision Request in alignment with the Board action taken August 3, 2004 to appropriate \$300,000 of unanticipated property tax revenue for FY 04-05 to fund four Sheriff Deputy positions.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In the FY 04-05 Recommended Budget, four Sheriff's Deputy positions were unfunded. During budget hearings, these positions were identified as representing three DARE instructor positions and one deputy assigned to our Aviation Unit. Two additional DARE positions remained funded in the FY 04-05 Recommended Budget but were vacant. Had the Board not made restorations to the Sheriff's budget, these two remaining DARE positions, once filled, would have been reallocated to other assignments in the department.

Following Budget Hearings Sheriff Anderson decided that the resources used to provide DARE instruction to Santa Barbara County schools would better serve the community by transitioning the DARE instructors to School Resource Deputies. These positions were funded by Board action on August 3, 2004, with a request for additional information on the School Resource Deputy program. With the restoration of funding the Sheriff has been able to provide School Resource Deputies to area schools and maintain staffing for the Aviation Unit, based upon current budget estimates.

The School Resource Deputy positions were reallocated from Support Services, Administrative Services Division, which had oversight of the DARE program, to Law Enforcement Operations, North and South County Patrol Operations. Each School Resource Deputy is assigned to a patrol station closest to his or her assigned school. While their primary duties relate to issues and calls for service relating to their assigned school, their assignment to Law Enforcement Operations also makes these deputies available to respond to assist with emergencies throughout the County.

Copies of the Organizational Charts showing the transition of the five deputies from Support Services, Administrative Services Division to Law Enforcement Operations, North and South County Patrol Operations are attached.

The Sheriff's Department has assigned five School Resource Deputies to the area high schools. Four of these high schools are in the unincorporated area of the County, including Righetti High School, Cabrillo High School, Santa Ynez High School and San Marcos High School. The fifth high school, Dos Pueblos High School is located in the City of Goleta which contracts for these services. All of the involved schools have been contacted and are supportive of the School Resource Deputy program. Their letters of support are attached.

School Resource Deputy Program

The priorities of the School Resource Deputies are as follows:

- 1) **Campus Safety**- A uniformed presence on campus that will take enforcement and deterrent action as necessary to improve the safety of the students, teachers, staff and the public in and around the campus. This will include, but is not limited to:
 - Enforcing state and local statutes that are primarily related to youth-oriented offenses.
 - Enforcing Penal and Business & Profession codes, county ordinances, loitering issues, and tobacco and truancy violations.
 - Responsibility for all initial offense reports from the designated schools.
 - Act as the Department liaison between law enforcement and school authorities, students and parents.

- 2) **Education**- SRD's will be expected to present classes to a variety of people; i.e. faculty, students, parents, and civic organizations. These classes will include, but are not limited to:
 - Reinforcing the message that school campuses need to be free of drugs, gangs, and violence.
 - Educate the campus community in the areas of juvenile law, drug and alcohol laws, crime prevention and personal safety, traffic related issues, and general law enforcement procedures.
 - Specialized lectures pertaining to issues specific to the SRD's assigned campus, as requested by school staff.

- 3) **Mentoring-** The School Resource Deputy will work with school staff to identify students who may be at-risk for involvement in gangs, drugs, or violence. The SRD will, as time allows, attempt to mentor these students in an effort to divert them from at-risk behavior towards more positive activities. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:
- Being a positive role model on campus.
 - One on one discussion with students regarding the hazards and repercussions of drug use, gang affiliation, and school violence.
 - Identifying and assisting the student in utilizing positive school and community resources.
 - Discussion with the student's teachers, parents, probation officer regarding the student's at-risk behavior.
- 4) **Gang Repression-** The School Resource Deputy will liaison with gang officers from law enforcement agencies throughout the County, Probation Officers, and school and community groups in an effort to identify the presence of gangs on school campuses, and take proactive measures to minimize and eliminate their presence and influence on the campuses.

The School Resource Deputy will enhance the safety of our high school campuses, while at the same time provide an opportunity for our deputies to continue to send the message through formal and informal contacts with students and staff that the high school campuses in Santa Barbara County need to be free from drugs, gangs and violence.

The effectiveness of the School Resource Deputy program will be measured in the following ways:

- Survey students, teachers and parents on an annual basis regarding the impact of the School Resource Deputy on Campus Safety;
- Reduction in the truancy rate at each campus.
- Each School Resource Deputy will conduct lectures each semester relating to the "No Drugs, No Violence, No Gangs" policy at the schools.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The School Resource Deputy program is not a mandated service.

Service levels will consist of five School Resource Deputies to the area high schools. Four of these high schools are in the unincorporated area of the County, including Righetti High School, Cabrillo High School, Santa Ynez High School and San Marcos High School. The fifth high school, Dos Pueblos High School is located in the City of Goleta which contracts for these services. Upon request and identification of resources the program may be expanded to other schools.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The fiscal impact of this recommendation consists of appropriating \$300,000 of unanticipated property tax revenue for FY 04-05 to fund and restore four (4) Sheriff Deputy positions for the remaining 3 quarters of FY 04-05. The remainder of the costs for these positions is estimated to be approximately \$27, 000 and will be absorbed within the adopted FY 04-05 budget with estimated salary savings. The full year FY 05-06 General Fund cost of this recommendation is estimated to be approximately \$436,000. The remaining Sheriff

Deputy, providing SRD service, assigned to Dos Pueblos High School is already funded within the Adopted FY 04-05 budget half by the City of Goleta and half by the General Fund therefore there is no fiscal impact for this Deputy. There are no facilities impacts from these recommendations.

Concurrence:
County Administrators Office

