

PS/ED COMMITTEE #1
April 20, 2012

Worksession

MEMORANDUM

April 18, 2012

TO: Public Safety & Education Committees

FROM: Susan J. Farag, Legislative Analyst *SJF*
Essie McGuire, Senior Legislative Analyst *DMC*

SUBJECT: **Worksession: FY13 Operating Budget – School Resource Officers**

Those expected for this worksession:

Asst. Chief Wayne Jerman, Police Department
Sgt. Suzanne Harrell, SRO Program, Police Department
Neil Shorb, Police Department
Robert Hellmuth, Director of School Safety and Security, MCPS
Ed Piesen, Office of Management and Budget

BACKGROUND

The Educational Facilities Officers (EFO) program was established in September 2002 with a \$4 million grant from the COPS Office. The funding was used to hire 32 new police officers and position them in the middle and high schools. These officers were deployed in schools beginning in the 2003-2004 school year.

Recent Budget Cuts: In FY10, there were 27 EFOs in the program (one at each of the 25 County public high schools and one each at Argyle Middle School and Martin Luther King Middle School). These were sworn officers who reported to their assigned school on a daily basis for their entire shift (unless scheduled for training or court). The high school-based EFOs also provided coverage at the middle schools that fed into the high school. They visited these schools throughout the week and responded when contacted by school staff for any type of assistance. EFOs were not assigned specifically to any elementary schools, but provided assistance when requested. In addition to the 27 deployed EFOs, there were six Sergeants in the program who functioned in a supervisory role.

The CE's recommended FY11 budget initially abolished 16 EFOs (13 EFOs and three sergeants), in effect halving the program, for a projected savings of \$1,960,460. On April 22, 2010, the Executive submitted a series of FY11 Budget Adjustments, one of which proposed that MCPS would fund the remaining 17 EFOs, reducing Police expenditures by another \$1,961,590. This proposal was eliminated during last minute budget deliberations between the Council, MCPS, and the Executive, in effect eliminating the entire EFO program. In the final days of budget deliberations, the Council required the Police Department to fund nine EFO positions, as required in the FY11 County Government Operating Budget Resolution:

66. This resolution appropriates \$978,840 to the Department of Police to fund 9 Police Officer III positions in order to continue the Educational Facilities Officer program. This program is established through a memorandum of understanding with the Montgomery County Public Schools.

As part of the mid-year FY11 Savings Plan, the CE recommended abolishing the remaining SROs for an estimated savings of \$518,650. The Public Safety Committee recommended retaining these positions, and Council approved the continued funding.

In FY12, the CE recommended budget again abolished all SRO positions. The Council ultimately funded six SROs, which are currently assigned by Police District.

STATUS UPDATE

The committees have requested an update on the operations of the SRO program over the past year to help assess performance and determine any needs the program may have moving forward into FY13. According to the Police Department, it has continued to have one official SRO assigned by district to provide service to the high schools located within that respective district. Five out of the six SROs cover more than one high school. A main challenge has been that an SRO cannot devote his or her entire shift to one school. In addition to school-related duties, the officers respond to other calls for service in the area. As anticipated, they have had to take on a more reactive role rather than be able to engage in proactive policing at their assigned schools. They have had less time to focus on building relationships and building a rapport with the students.

Encounter data: Arrest data for this school year is provided on © 11, illustrating the number of arrests and types of offenses by month. There have been 723 calls for service at the high schools this school year (through March 2012). There have been 198 arrests during the same time period. A little less than half of the arrests (87) have been for CDS offenses. There have been 35 arrests for weapons offenses. Other common offenses include robbery, assault, alcohol offenses, disorderly conduct.

SROs have the autonomy to determine their coverage based on school need. Some choose to devote one shift to one school, and then a different school for the following shift(s). Others split their shift among multiple schools. As noted earlier, all but one SRO have multiple schools to cover in their respective districts. The exception is the 6th District SRO who covers

only Watkins Mill High School. The other high school in the 6th District is Gaithersburg High, which is covered by an SRO from the Gaithersburg City Police Department. SROs are also required to attend court when summoned and attend mandatory annual MCPD training, both of which reduce their time at the schools.

The use of additional patrol officers at schools: Police District Commanders periodically reassign patrol officers to different areas or duties in order to provide optimal police coverage within their districts. As a result, five of the six District Commanders have determined a need for more patrol officers at certain high schools within their districts. Assignments by district are shown below:

FY12 SRO Assignments by Police District

Police District	# of High Schools	MCPD SRO	Other Municipal PD SRO	MCPD Patrol Officer	Total SROs By District	SRO Ratio/Schools
1ST District	5	1	1 (RCPD)	1	3	0.60
2ND District	3	1			1	0.33
3RD District	4	1		1	2	0.50
4TH District	6	1		2	3	0.50
5TH District	5	1		1	2	0.40
6TH District	2	1	1 (GCPD)		2	1.00

The Police Department advises that the additional patrol officers assist the SROs during open lunches, release of students, traffic-related issues at the beginning and the end of the school day, and calls for service at the schools when the SRO is not available to respond due to other activities or incidents at another assigned school. SROs are often called away from their assignment when they have to make a juvenile arrest, because these arrests tend to be the most time consuming, due to processing and waiting for the parents or guardians to take custody of the individual.

SRO Supervision: In addition to the actual SROs, other Police Department staff perform duties related to the SRO program. The supervising Sergeant spends approximately 35% of her work hours on the SRO program. The SROs are also directly supervised by a District Lieutenant, who supervises other officers within his or her district. The District Lieutenant spends approximately 28% of their time on school-related and SRO issues.

MCPS DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL SECURITY

While MCPD has assigned SROs to certain high schools, MCPS also provides security officers at each high and middle school. MCPS Department of Safety and Security Operating Budget data for FY04 to FY13 is attached at © 12. Over that timeframe, school-based security staff has increased from 194.5 positions to 212 at a corresponding cost of \$5.87 million in FY04 and \$8.68 million in FY13.

FY13 BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The CE recommended FY13 maintains funding for six SROs, but does not add additional officers dedicated to this function. The FY12 cost for the current six SROs is \$697,037. If the Council decides to add new police officers in FY13, the additional cost per police officer is \$164,869.

New Police Officer FY13	Cost
Entry Level (Salary and Fringe)	\$71,867
OT - Added Per Sworn Officer	\$7,105
POC Equipment*	\$13,362
Patrol Vehicle*	\$29,900
Car Equipment (Marked)*	\$27,719
Motor Pool Charges	\$14,916
Total Cost (FY13 Only)	\$164,869

**one-time cost*

DISCUSSION ISSUES

- 1) What are some examples of problems SROs encountered over the past year due to limited staff?
- 2) Does MCPD see a long-term or permanent need for the assignment of patrol officers to schools?
- 3) Is assignment by District the most optimal arrangement? Are there some schools that could do without SRO coverage so that more SROs could be assigned to schools with a higher need?
- 4) If the CE Recommended budget for the Police Department is approved and the Department receives all additional police officers, how will this impact police/SRO presence at schools, if at all?
- 5) Councilmembers Andrews and Rice have asked that MCPD formally dedicate a complement of 11 police officers to the SRO program (© 13-14). How would this impact delivery of service and security at both the schools and the community?

This packet contains

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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AND
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
AND
MONTGOMERY COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
AND
CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT
AND
GAITHERSBURG CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
AND
ROCKVILLE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
AND
TAKOMA PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding (MOU) is to establish a working protocol for exchanging information and addressing matters of mutual concern cooperatively among the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), the signatory agencies, and the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office (SAO) to maintain and to enhance a safe learning and working environment for students and staff.

I. Offenses by Students or Others on School Property where Police Take the Lead

- a. **Investigative Responsibilities.** The parties agree that the following offenses, termed "critical incidents," that occur on MCPS property, including school buses, or at an MCPS sponsored event, including extra-curricular activities, shall be reported to the appropriate police agency by the administrator-in-charge or designee as soon as practicable so that the police agency can investigate in accordance with the procedures in Part II. Such notification must be made by direct communication with the educational facilities officer (EFO), if immediately available, or to the Public Safety Communications Center (911) or 301-279-8000. Voice mail messages to the EFO will not suffice and must be followed with a call to 911. (Note that MCPS Regulation JFA-RA, Student Rights and Responsibilities, requires police notification for other kinds of student misconduct which are not listed here and for which MCPS has the primary investigative authority.)
- Any physical attack on another that requires medical attention outside of the school health room
 - Any death
 - Rape and/or sexual assault with another by force or threat of force¹

¹ Meaning engaging in a sexual act or sexual contact, without consent, by force or threat of force, and/or employing or displaying a dangerous weapon or object reasonably believed to be a weapon (sexual offense in the first, second, or third degree)

- Robbery/attempted robbery (taking property of another from his person or in his presence by force, reasonable fear of violence, or intimidation whether the perpetrator is armed or unarmed)
- Arson (willful and maliciously set fire) or verbal or written threat of arson
- Manufacture or possession of destructive device (explosive, incendiary, or toxic material combined with a delivery or detonating apparatus or modified to do so) or look-alike
- Knowingly make false reports about the location or detonation of a destructive device
- Theft (any single incident or series of incidents committed by the same perpetrator where the value of the stolen property is \$500 or more)
- Possession of a firearm; possession of other dangerous or deadly weapon, including any device designed or manipulated to shoot any projectile, knowingly brought onto or brandished upon school property
- Possession with intent to distribute, distribution, or manufacture of controlled dangerous substance
- Gang² related incident/crime
- Hate crime (harassing³ a person or damaging property of a person because of his race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation,⁴ or national origin)

b. **Releasing Student Information.** Information obtained by school staff may be shared with the police agency or SAO as long as the information was not derived from school records.⁵ For example, information received orally from a student may be shared, even if later recorded in a written statement used by school staff for disciplinary purposes. Information from school records can be shared under any one of the following circumstances:

- "Directory information" unless the parent/guardian has asked specifically that such information be kept confidential
- With consent of the parent/guardian or adult student
- In response to a subpoena, including a subpoena from the SAO⁶
- In a specific situation that presents imminent danger to students or members of the community or that requires an immediate need for information in order to avert or diffuse serious threats to the safety or health of a student or other individual

² A formal or informal ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons who: (a) have a history of criminal street gang activity; (b) have a common name or common identifying signs, colors, or symbols; and (c) have members or associates who, individually or collectively, engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal activity.

³ Harassment is defined as a persistent pattern of conduct intended to alarm or seriously annoy another, without a legal purpose, after receiving reasonable warning or request to stop.

⁴ Sexual orientation means the identification of an individual as to male or female homosexuality, heterosexuality, bisexuality, or gender-related identity.

⁵ School records are those records, identifiable to an individual student, governed by federal law (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act/FERPA).

⁶ Release of documents from a student record requires that the school first make reasonable efforts to notify the parent/guardian or adult student of receipt of the subpoena in advance of complying with the subpoena so the parent/guardian may seek protective action, unless the issuing authority has ordered that the existence or contents of the subpoena not be disclosed.

II. Investigation of Critical Incidents Occurring on School Property

MCPS shall immediately notify the appropriate police agency of all critical incidents as described in Section I of this agreement. The police agency will respond promptly to such incidents or will keep the school staff advised of any delay in the response of officers.

Absent exigent circumstances, MCPS will limit its administrative investigation to ascertaining basic facts and doing what is necessary to stabilize the situation until a police officer arrives. For critical incidents, MCPS will defer taking written statements from students and/or witnesses, thereby permitting the police agency the opportunity to do so. Copies of written student and witness statements will be provided to MCPS within seven days with the approval of the SAO which shall make the determination after consultation with the police agency. The police agency will assist MCPS with its administrative procedures by providing the relevant information requested (including a synopsis of relevant facts) in order that statutory and administrative deadlines may be met and by providing witness statements in any closed investigation and as otherwise authorized by the SAO.

The principal or his/her designee shall be present, whenever possible, during any interview conducted by the police agency on school property and may interview the individual after the police officer has concluded his/her interview.

In the event that the police agency has not arrived and school dismissal is about to occur, MCPS will notify the police agency, and MCPS may conduct an administrative investigation, including taking student statements. The police agency understands that MCPS does not have the authority to arrest individuals and hold them for the police agency.

III. Notification of State's Attorney's Office

The MCPS Department of School Safety and Security will make reasonable efforts to notify the SAO when it receives notice that a student has been arrested by the police agency and charged with one of the following offenses in order for the SAO to obtain the information necessary to present the State's case at a detention hearing or other judicial proceeding which generally will be held within the next business day following the student arrest:

- Violent physical or sexual attack on another
- Manufacture or possession of destructive device (explosive, incendiary, or toxic material combined with a delivery or detonating apparatus or modified to do so) or a look-alike
- Knowingly make false reports about the location or detonation of a destructive device
- Possession of a firearm brought knowingly or use of any weapon to cause bodily harm
- Possession with intent to distribute or distribution or manufacture of controlled dangerous substance
- Gang related incident/crime

When legally permissible, the SAO shall advise MCPS of whether the student was or was not prosecuted for the offenses listed in this Section III. (See attached form.)

IV. Serious Incidents in the Community

In addition to the required notification of reportable offenses committed by students in the community, the police agency will notify MCPS as soon as practicable of any serious incident involving MCPS schools, facilities, students, or staff that the police agency reasonably believes will impact MCPS operations in order for appropriate measures to be taken by MCPS to address the impact. Examples include:

- Death of a student, staff member
- Serious or life-threatening injury to a student and/or staff member
- Hostage-barricade, criminal suspect at large, or hazardous materials incident that may affect students and/or staff
- Gang related incident/crime
- After-hours property damage to an MCPS facility, school, bus, or other vehicle

During normal business hours, the police agency will provide notice to the MCPS Department of School Safety and Security at 301-279-3066. At all other times, the police agency will notify the Electronic Detection Section, the MCPS 24-hour communication center, at 301-279-3232.

V. Collaboration, Training, and Review

School administrators and officials of the police agencies are encouraged to periodically meet at the school community level to establish and foster good working relations between the agencies.

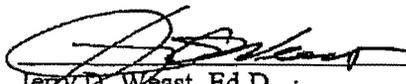
MCPS, the police agencies, and the SAO agree to participate in joint training opportunities for administrators, EFOs, and MCPS security staff on matters that are the subject of this MOU and other topics of mutual interest. MCPS and the police agencies will make available, annually, a block of time for training of administrators and other staff by the signatory agencies on the MOU and related matters. The SAO will make available, annually, a block of time for training assistant state's attorneys and other staff, as appropriate, on the MOU and related matters.

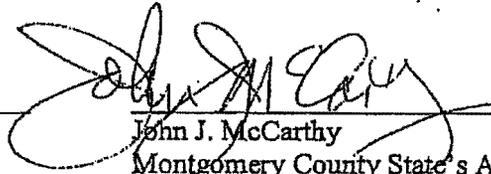
The signatory agencies agree that this MOU and its implementation will be reviewed by the parties annually in order to determine if any inadequacies exist and further agree to revise the MOU as may be appropriate, upon the agreement of the parties, in order to further the safety and welfare of the school community. Furthermore, the signatory agencies will meet annually thereafter to review the provisions contained within this MOU as well as the implementation of it. Amendments, with the agreement of each agency, may be made from time to time, as desirable.

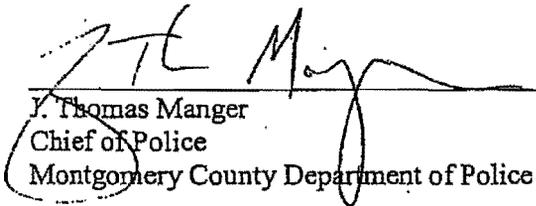
This MOU is not intended to supersede any other memoranda of understanding or legal obligations of the parties.

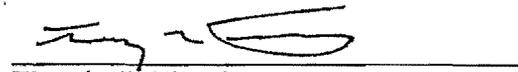
In witness, thereof, the parties have executed this memorandum of understanding on this 4th day of JUNE, 2010.

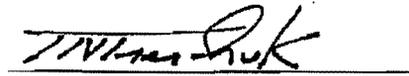
APPROVED

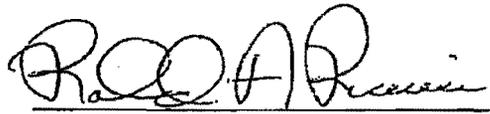

Jerry D. Weast, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools

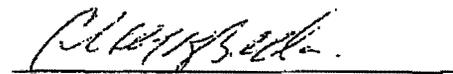

John J. McCarthy
Montgomery County State's Attorney

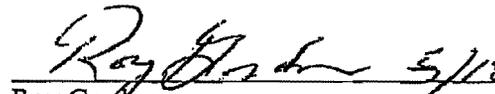

J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police
Montgomery County Department of Police


Timothy L. Firestine
Chief Administrative Officer
Montgomery County, Maryland


Terrance N. Treschuk
Chief of Police
Rockville City Police Department

 4/8/10
Ronald Ricucci
Chief of Police
Takoma Park Police Department


Christopher Bonvillain
Interim Acting Chief of Police
Gaithersburg City Police Department

 5/18/10
Roy Gordon
Chief of Police
Chevy Chase Village Police Department

Montgomery County Police Department
SRO Assignments for 2011-2012

updated 11/06/2011

1st District: 240-773-6070

Commander James Fenner

SRO Supervisor: Lt. Demitri Kornegay

SRO: PO3 Maureen Connelly

- Churchill High School
- Quince Orchard High School
- Wootton High School
- Rockville High School
- Richard Montgomery High School

2nd District: 301-652-9200

Commander Dave Falcinelli

SRO Supervisor: Lt. Meredith Dominick

SRO: PO3 Arnold Aubrey

- Walt Whitman High School
- Walter Johnson High School
- Bethesda Chevy Chase High School

3rd District: 301-565-7740

Commander Don Johnson

SRO Supervisor: Lt. Michael Price

SRO: PO3 Roslyn Mills

- Northwood High School
- Blair High School
- Springbrook High School
- Paint Branch High School

4th District: 240-773-5500

Commander John Damskey

SRO Supervisor: Lt. Marc Yamada

SRO: PO3 Anna Walker

- Einstein High School
- Kennedy High School
- Magruder High School
- Blake High School
- Sherwood High School
- Wheaton High School

5th District: 240-773-6200

Commander Luther Reynolds

SRO Supervisor: Lt. Sonia Pruitt

SRO: PO3 Russ Larson

- Clarksburg High School
- Northwest High School
- Poolesville High School
- Damascus High School

6th District: 240-773-5700

Commander Willie Parker-Loan

SRO Supervisor: Lt. Nancy Hudson

SRO: PO3 Rodney Barnes

- Watkins Mill High School
- Seneca Valley High School (5th District)
- Gaithersburg High School (if GCPD SRO not available)

School Resource Officer Program- Information Request from the County Council

1) Please provide a status update on how the program has been working this past school year with six SROs in place. What challenges, if any, has the reduced staffing caused?

There are six (6) police districts. One SRO is designated to each district to provide service to the high schools located within that district.

The main challenge for our SROs is that they cannot devote their entire shift to one school. Throughout their shift, they respond to calls from their assigned schools. They take on a more reactive role as opposed to proactive due the requirement of covering multiple schools. Also, they have less time to focus on building relationships and building a rapport with the students.

2) Please provide encounter data by school (e.g., the number and types of calls, incidents, arrests) for the past year.

See Attachment A

3) How much time do the SROs typically spend at each school?

This varies on a daily/weekly basis and depends on how many schools they are assigned. It also depends on current events that are occurring within those schools.

Five of our SROs have multiple schools to cover. Some choose to devote one shift to one school and then a different school for the following shift(s). Others split their shift between multiple schools.

Our one exception from the above is our 6th District SRO who covers Watkins Mill High School. There is only one other high school in the 6th District, Gaithersburg HS, which is covered by an officer from the Gaithersburg Police Department.

It should be noted that SROs are required to attend court, when summoned, and attend mandatory, annual MCPD training.

4) Chief Manger indicated that at least two District Commanders (4D and 5D) have assigned additional patrol officers to area high schools based on need. Is this practice occurring in any other districts? What types of security issues are schools experiencing that have required the use of additional patrol officers? Which high schools, if any, currently have more than one police officer functioning as an SRO?

In addition to 4D and 5D, some other districts use additional officers to assist at the schools. Below is a brief description of what is occurring in each district.

1D (5 high schools) - has assigned an additional patrol officer to assist the 1D SRO. In addition, RCPD has assigned an officer to serve as an SRO at Richard Montgomery HS.

2D (3 high schools) - 1 SRO, no assisting patrol officer(s)

3D (4 high schools) - 1 SRO, and 1 patrol officer who assists on a part time basis, as needed

4D (6 high schools) - 1 SRO and 2 patrol officers who assist on a full time basis. These three officers are assigned 2 schools each.

5D (5 high schools) - 1 SRO and 1 patrol officer who assists on a full time basis

6D (2 high schools, including Gaithersburg HS) - 1 SRO, no assisting patrol officers from MCPD, 1 GCPD SRO

Additional officers assist the SROs during open lunches, release of students, traffic related issues at the beginning and end of the school day, calls for service at the schools when the SRO is not available to respond due to other activities/incidents at another assigned school.

Often juvenile arrests are the most time consuming due to processing and waiting for the parents/guardians to take custody of the individual.

5) It is my understanding that there is one Program Officer for the SRO Program (Sgt. Harrell). And in each district, there is one supervising Lieutenant for the one SRO. Are these positions 100% dedicated to SRO functions? If not, what percentage of their time is dedicated to the SRO program?

Sgt Harrell, the Field Services Bureau Administrative Sergeant, performs duties to assist the department in coordinating the SRO Program. Those duties include compiling statistics for the program, monitoring assignment issues, and preparing program briefs for interested parties. Sgt Harrell spends approximately 35% of her work hours on the SRO Program.

The SROs are directly supervised by a District Lieutenant. This District Lieutenant supervises other officers within his/her district; therefore, has additional responsibilities outside of the SRO program. The amount of time that each lieutenant spends on the program varies from district. On a weekly basis, on average, the Lieutenants spend approximately 28% of their time on school related/SRO concerns and SRO supervisory responsibilities.

6) *What challenges are the SROs facing in their daily work? What additional resources would be helpful?*

SROs have communicated that relationships are more difficult to establish and maintain with their current deployment.

Although their time is limited, the SROs continue to provide a safe and secure learning environment for students, staff and the school community. MCPS, benefits from the Police's SRO Program in dealing with situations that disrupt the learning environment.

The Executive's priority for the Police Staffing Initiative, based on the input received from the Police Chief, was placed directly on increasing "on the street" patrols and on criminal investigations. While the Executive understands the benefits of the SRO program and the desire by some to expand it, he does not support the County assuming this additional responsibility, particularly in light of teacher pension costs being shifted to the County and the burdensome changes being made to the State Maintenance of Effort law. Any cost associated with expanding the SRO program must be assumed by MCPS, the agency that benefits most directly from the SROs.

ATTACHMENT A

School Resource Officer (SRO) Program (2011-2012 School Year)							
School Arrests (Number and Types of Offenses)							
Offense Category	Aug/Sept 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012 *
0300 Robbery	2				1	1	
0400 Aggravated Assault				1	1		
0500 Burglary					1		
0600 Larceny				1	1		1
0700 Auto Theft					1		
0800 Assault		3			3	2	1
0900 Arson							
1000 Forgery-Counterfeiting							
1400 Vandalism				1		1	
1500 Weapons Offense	9	6	7	2		9	2
1700 Sex Offenses						1	
1800 CDS Laws	10	8	19	14	5	22	9
2100 Out of Control	1			1	2	1	
2200 Alcohol Offense	1	1	3	1	2	2	
2413 Disorderly Conduct	2	1		2	1	2	
2700 Trespass/Bomb Threat							
TOTAL	25	19	29	23	18	41	13
High School Calls For Service (0600-1600 hours)							
Calls For Service	Aug/Sept 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012 *
TOTAL	114	108	99	117	71	129	84
<i>* March data is through March 22nd</i>							

Montgomery County Public Schools
Department of Safety and Security
Operating Budget (FY 2004 - FY 2013)

Fiscal Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	*2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	*2013
School-Based										
Security Staff (FTE)	194.50	197.50	203.00	208.00	214.00	213.00	213.00	212.00	212.00	212.00
Position Budget (\$)	5,872,377	6,147,226	6,432,678	6,847,745	7,971,873	8,657,291	8,814,257	8,794,227	8,714,227	8,680,741
Central-Based										
Staff (FTE)	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.50	22.50	21.50	21.00	20.00	20.00	19.00
Position Budget (\$)	1,227,420	1,249,753	1,225,115	1,357,830	1,476,164	1,481,399	1,543,067	1,480,260	1,480,260	1,476,513
School & Central-Based										
School & Central Staff (FTE)	215.50	218.50	224.00	229.50	236.50	234.50	234.00	232.00	232.00	231.00
Position Budget (\$)	7,099,797	7,396,979	7,657,793	8,205,575	9,448,037	10,138,690	10,357,324	10,274,487	10,194,487	10,157,254
*Non-position (\$)	304,543	307,131	324,964	317,670	330,237	337,606	292,418	288,418	273,391	273,391
Grand Total	\$7,404,340	\$7,704,110	\$7,982,757	\$8,523,245	\$9,778,274	\$10,476,296	\$10,649,742	\$10,562,905	\$10,467,878	\$10,430,645

*During FY 2008, 22.0 student monitor positions were reclassified to security assistants.

*Non-position resources are primarily used for school-based staff (uniforms, supporting services part-time, overtime, alarm monitoring, etc.)

*FY 2013 is the Superintendent's Recommended Operating Budget.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

MEMORANDUM

April 18, 2012

TO: Public Safety Committee
Education Committee

FROM: Public Safety Committee Chair Phil Andrews
Councilmember Craig Rice

SUBJECT: School Resource Officers

We have been very concerned about the reductions to the School Resource Officer (SRO) program in recent years. While we understand that these have been among the unfortunate results of the extremely challenging fiscal environment, we remain focused on fully restoring this critical component of school safety in increments that improving times will allow.

We are very pleased to see in the Executive's response to Council staff that the District Commanders are already dedicating a high level of additional support and resources in the current school year to increase SRO presence in the schools. Combined, this response indicates a total of 13 officers (including those assigned from Rockville and Gaithersburg) involved in the SRO program.

We appreciate Chief Manger's recognition of the vital role police officers have in ensuring school security and we support his clear steps to increase the resources to address the need for services. We propose that the Police Department build on the resources it already has in place to strengthen the SRO program in FY13 and going forward. Given that the Police Department has prioritized this need within existing resources, we expect that it will be even more feasible to do so should the Council support any of the proposed increase in staffing for the Police Department.

Specifically, we recommend the following:

1. That in FY13 the Department of Police formally dedicate a complement of 11 officers full-time to the SRO program. This will allow the officers to formalize their role and relationship with the schools to which they are assigned.

2. That the Council communicate to Rockville City Police Chief Treschuk and to Gaithersburg City Police Chief Sroka its intent to support an increased SRO program and its request for these two municipalities to continue their current support of an SRO in their high schools.
3. That MCPD work with MCPS to develop a new MOU that addresses roles and responsibilities of SROs and of school and police leadership, and that reflects a revised assignment strategy. This process may provide a good opportunity for all stakeholders to revisit and make adjustments to the relationships and structure of the program as it moves forward.
4. That the Council ask Chief Manger to provide a three-year plan to restore the SRO program, including what level of program coordination and supervision will ultimately be necessary.

We appreciate the Committees' attention to this critical issue, and look forward to discussion of our recommended approach.