

PS/ED COMMITTEE #2  
October 13, 2014  
**Update**

**MEMORANDUM**

October 9, 2014

TO: Public Safety Committee  
Education Committee

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

SUBJECT: **Update – School Resource Officers**

Today the Public Safety and Education Committees will receive an update on the School Resource Officers program for the current 2014-2015 school year. The following individuals are expected to participate in the discussion:

- Assistant Chief Darryl McSwain, Montgomery County Police Department
- Lieutenant Michael Ward, MCPD
- Doug Steel, Department of School Safety and Security, Montgomery County Public Schools
- Lori-Christina Webb, Office of the Chief Academic Officer, MCPS
- Chris Garran, Associate Superintendent of High Schools, MCPS

**Background**

The School Resource Officer (SRO) program has been in operation in some form since the 2003-2004 school year. The program has seen many different structures and staffing levels, experiencing significant reductions during the difficult economic conditions of FY11-12. In FY13, the Council began increasing the SRO complement and rebuilding the program.

In FY15, the Council approved sufficient funding to implement one SRO in each high school for the current 2014-15 school year. This complement includes contributions of a Deputy Sheriff from the Office of the Sheriff, an officer from the City of Rockville Police Department, and an officer from the City of Gaithersburg Police Department.

## **Update Information**

The current list of SRO assignments is attached on circle 4. MCPD provided descriptive update information on the program structure, training, and operations on circles 1-3.

***Increased staffing:*** MCPD reports that the increased complement of officers is working well. MCPD also reports that the increased complement facilitates communication and coordination between SRO's and principals, and reduces response times for officers. MCPD reports that SRO's are making regular visits to middle schools and assisting with issues there. **The Committees may want to have additional discussion of the SRO relationships with middle schools and the types of issues requiring attention.**

***Arrest data:*** MCPD provided arrest data by offense category for the full school year 2013-2014 and for the first month of the current school year, 2014-2015. MCPD notes on circle 2 that the data for 2013-2014 does not only reflect SRO activity, and represents arrests recorded at all high schools during relevant hours. MCPD states that going forward SRO data will be tracked separately to give a more detailed picture of SRO encounter data and experience.

***Training:*** On circle 3, MCPD references the annual SRO training for SRO's in the summer and also a future joint training on the new disciplinary policies in MCPS. Council staff continues to stress the importance of involving principals in training discussions in addition to the SRO's. **The Committees may want to hear from MCPS and MCPD how all principals will be brought into these discussions and training sessions in the near future.**

## MEMORANDUM

October 7, 2014

**TO:** Montgomery County Council

**FROM:** Darryl W. McSwain  
Assistant Chief of Police  
Patrol Services Bureau

**SUBJECT:** School Resource Officer (SRO) Program Update

At the request of the Public Safety and Education Committees, the below information is submitted to provide an update on the Montgomery County Police Department's School Resource Officer (SRO) Program.

**A list of the current SRO assignments for each Montgomery County High School is attached.** The increased staffing level has led to overall improvements and positive adjustments in operational practices.

- Currently an SRO is assigned to every public high school in the County including the Alternative Educations Program School.
- Principals who shared an SRO last school year are thankful to have their own SRO this school year.
- Having an SRO at each high school has provided more opportunities for interventions and mediations, attendance at planning meetings, and the sharing of presentations to both students and staff members alike.
- The addition of the new SROs has also cut down on response time to incidents at all schools. The regular presence of an SRO will likely deter more inappropriate behavior by students or other persons in general.

- SRO supervisors have spoken with the principals of Walter Johnson High School, Kennedy High School, Sherwood High School, and Watkins Mill High School and each principal expressed satisfaction with their newly assigned SROs. Each of these schools shared an SRO last school year.
- Now that the Department has a full complement of SROs at the high school level, regular visits are being made to the middle schools that feed into the SROs assigned high school. SROs are currently handling calls for service at middle schools and assisting with other issues as needed. At a school safety conference this summer hosted by MCAC, several MCPS middle school principals in attendance expressed a desire to have their own SRO.

**Please see the attached documents containing charts of the number, and type of arrests made by SRO's during the last school year, and the first month of the current school year.** It should be noted that the 2013-2014 chart is not considered an official representation of all SRO arrests for a number of reasons to include:

1. Past MCP database limitations did not allow us to track SRO arrests apart from a regular patrol officer. As such, the 2013-2014 data represents arrests recorded at all High School addresses between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. when an SRO was most likely present. However, there was no guarantee that the call for service was handled by an SRO or the nearest available patrol officer. In addition, we could not confirm that the matter was school related without hand searching all suspected reports.
2. The collected data only captured incidents which recorded a "dash 4" clearance which is indicative of an on-scene arrest. The database could not account for any "paper arrests" allowed for juveniles that do not result in a physical arrest.

Moving forward, the Information Management Technology Division (IMTD) is building a bridge within the MCP incident report server system to extract all reports written by SROs. These reports will subsequently be read and cataloged by my staff for accurate monthly statistical analysis. The attached September 2014 data is accurate and verified by a hand search of all SRO arrest reports.

**The supervision of the SRO program has changed slightly in recent months, to include:**

- The SRO Coordinator is Sergeant Donnell Cowan who reports to Lieutenant Michael Ward. Lt. Ward is the Police Services Bureau (PSB) Administrative Lieutenant and Sgt. Cowan serves as the PSB Administrative Sergeant. These two individuals coordinate SRO training, keep statistical data, and maintain contact with school principals and police district executives.
- Each SRO is directly supervised by a lieutenant at the district station. Lieutenants ensure that the SRO is properly completing the monthly report, handling calls for service at their assigned school, and completing other duties as needed.

**The Department has taken steps to ensure and improve effective communication between the SROs and school staff, to include:**

- During meetings with the school principals and SROs, the importance of including the SRO in regular school meetings has been stressed. It has been recommended that SROs and school principals meet weekly to discuss issues of concern and to ensure that both parties are working toward the same goals.
- During the summer SRO training, school principals were invited to attend the training. Dr. Alan Goodwin, the principal at Walt Whitman High School, gave a presentation during the SRO training, on *Partnering and Building Relationships between MCPS and the SRO*. North West High School Principal Lance Dempsey gave a presentation on *Working with the SRO and MCPS*. Robert Hellmuth, the Director of MCPS School Safety and Security, shared *the Role of School Security and the SRO and Working Together on Emergency Preparedness Drills and Investigations*.
- SRO program supervisors will continue to regularly meet with and/or contact the school principals in an effort to strive for improved working relationships and communication between our SROs and the school principals.
- In the near future, a joint training on the MOU and new MCPS School Disciplinary Process will be conducted with SROs to ensure consistency across all districts.

I am confident that the foundation laid and on-going program enhancements will yield mutual benefits for MCPS, MCP, and the community as a whole.

## MCP School Resource Officer Assignments

DISTRICT	SCHOOL	OFFICER
1	Quince Orchard HS	MCP Officer Lowery
1	Richard Montgomery HS	RCP Corporal Halverson
1	Rockville HS	RCP Corporal Halverson
1	Thomas S Wootton HS	MCP Officer Connelly
1	Winston Churchill HS	MCP Officer Homrock
1	Poolesville HS	MCP Officer Winkler
2	Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS	MCP Officer Lucas
2	Walt Whitman HS	MCP Officer Pascali
2	Walter Johnson HS	MCP Officer Jackson
3	Montgomery Blair HS	MCP Officer Splaine
3	Paint Branch HS	MCP Officer Hennessy
3	Springbrook HS	MCP Officer Mavritte
4	Northwood	MCP Officer Rodriguez
4	Albert Einstein HS	MCP Officer Gregory
4	James Hubert Blake HS	MCP Officer Mclain
4	John F. Kennedy HS	MCP Officer Taylor
4	Sherwood HS	MCP Officer Veiga (Temp)
4	Wheaton HS	MCP Officer Henderson
5	Clarksburg HS	MCP Officer Melott
5	Damascus HS	MCP Officer Riddle
5	Northwest HS	MCP Officer Wojdan
5	Seneca Valley HS	MCP Officer Larson
6	Col Zadok Magruder HS	MCSO Deputy Defriece
6	Gaithersburg HS	GPD Officer Blackmon
6	Watkins Mill HS	MCP Officer Goodale
1	The Alternative School	MCP Officer Jacaruso
		MCP Officer Wiltshire (Temp)

**School Resource Officer Program  
(2013-2014 School Year)**

**Reported Arrests at High Schools 2013-2014**

Offense Category	Aug/Sept 2013	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Totals
0200 Rape											
0300 Robbery				1	1	1		1		1	5
0400 Aggravated Assault			1								
0500 Burglary										1	1
0600 Larceny	2	6	1	2	3		3	3	2	2	24
0700 Auto Theft											
0800 Assault	3	3	1		4	3	2	4		1	21
0900 Arson											
1000 Forgery-Counterfeiting											
1400 Vandalism			1		1	1					3
1500 Weapons Offense	6	5	1	3	2	3	4	2	2	3	31
1700 Sex Offenses											
1824 Selling Marijuana		1		1			1	1	1	1	6
1834 Poss Marijuana	10	11	11	7	6	6	10	7	5	4	77
1864 Poss Implement Marij	1		4				2			1	8
2100 Out of Control											
2200 Alcohol Offense	1	4		1	2	1	2	1			12
2413 Disorderly Conduct	1		2		1	2	2	3			11
2716 Bomb Threat											
2717 Explosive Device											
2737 Trespassing	1							2			3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>203</b>

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**High School Incidents resulting in Arrests (2014-2015 school year)**

<b>Offense Category</b>	<b>Aug/Sept 2014</b>	<b>Oct-14</b>	<b>Nov-14</b>	<b>Dec-14</b>	<b>Jan-15</b>	<b>Feb-15</b>	<b>Mar-15</b>	<b>Apr-15</b>	<b>May-15</b>	<b>Jun-15</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
0200 Rape											
0300 Robbery	1										
0400 Aggravated Assault											
0500 Burglary											
0600 Larceny	4										
0700 Auto Theft											
0800 Assault	4										
0900 Arson											
1000 Forgery-Counterfeiting											
1400 Vandalism											
1500 Weapons Offense	4										
1700 Sex Offenses											
1800 CDS Laws	11										
2100 Out of Control											
2200 Alcohol Offense											
2413 Disorderly Conduct	4										
2700 Trespass/Bomb Threat											
Threats	2										
Trespass	1										
Fireworks	1										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>										

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