



City Council Report

Date: August 21, 2023
To: City Council
Through: Scott Butler, Assistant City Manager
From: Ken Cost, Police Chief
Stephanie Derivan, Commander
Subject: Intergovernmental Agreement with Mesa Unified School District #4
Citywide

Purpose and Recommendation

The City of Mesa Police Department is respectfully requesting that the Mesa City Council approve and authorize the City Manager or his designee to enter into a three-year Intergovernmental Agreement with the Mesa Unified School District #4 to accept up to \$2,111,737 annually for salary and benefits for Mesa Police School Resource Officers assigned to sixteen Mesa public schools under the Arizona Department of Education's School Safety Program.

Background

The Mesa Public Schools Unified School District #4 will receive funding from the Arizona Department of Education for placing School Resource Officers on school grounds to contribute to safe school environments that are conducive to teaching and learning. The School Safety Program officers maintain a visible presence on campus, deter delinquent and violent behaviors, serve as an available resource to the school community and provide students and staff with Law Related Education instruction and training. Grants awarded under the School Safety Program are funded for three years.

Discussion

The Mesa Police Department has been in partnership with Mesa Public Schools for several years and school resource officers have provided an invaluable service for the schools, school administrators, teachers, and students.

The school resource officers are assigned on a full-time basis to keep the school safe, advise the school administrators, counsel the children, and teach law related education. Law enforcement officers and school administration shall work together in terms of developing programs and providing consultation regarding safety factors and how to handle volatile situations.

The Mesa Police Department will only provide a school resource officer to the schools specified in the Intergovernmental Agreement for the duration of the School Safety funding. The Mesa Police Department does not guarantee officer presence for any other school.

Alternatives

When Mesa Public Schools applied for Schools Safety funding, a Cooperative Agreement was signed by the Mesa Police Department to ensure full time officer presence on school campuses if funds are awarded. To comply with the Cooperative Agreement, the Mesa Police Department will need to provide school resource officers.

Fiscal Impact

Mesa Public Schools will receive funding for three years through the School Safety Program to offset the fiscal impact to the City of Mesa by reimbursing ten months of the actual salary and benefits earned by law enforcement officers assigned as School Resource Officers.

The Intergovernmental Agreement will be in effect for three years beginning July 1, 2023.

Coordinated With

The City of Mesa Police Department recommends the approval to accept the Intergovernmental Agreement with Mesa Unified School District #4.