




MARK C. CURRAN
SHERIFF
RAYMOND J. ROSE
UNDERSHERIFF

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: August 21, 2017

TO: Financial and Administrative Committee
Law and Judicial Committee

FROM: 
Chief David Hare

REFERENCE: Beach Park School District – Part-Time School Resource Officer Program

The Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) and the Beach Park School District (District) Board of Education entered into a policing agreement for a Part-Time School Resource Officer (SRO) Pilot Program from March 2016 through June 2016. The program was a success in terms of the impact it had on the student body, faculty and administration opinion and the SRO's recommendations for policy enforcement so we entered into an agreement for the 2016 – 2017 School Year. Both agreements required an SRO for 19 hours per week, that we jointly evaluate the program based on student body and community acceptance, faculty and administration opinion of the SRO's effectiveness and the deputy's (SRO's) reports and recommendations, see the attached SRO Program Activity Report, August 2016 through June 2017.

We believe the working relationship between the Sheriff's Office, School District and Middle School is important and one that we should continue to cultivate. We hope that by continuing the program the school will continue to experience a decrease in difficult behaviors, continue to increase the trust between the SRO and the students and faculty of the school and in the community in general.

We will continue to inform the Committees and the County Board of the success of this program and respectfully request that the Committees and the County Board support this opportunity and approve the policing agreement that sits before it.

Attachment



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SRO Program, Beach Park Middle School

Activity Report, August 2016 through June 2017

SRO Tomasello has submitted monthly activity reports reference his assignment as part time SRO for Beach Park Middle School. I have summarized his activity during the 2016-2017 school year. Please find attached Tomasello's monthly reports.

During this time frame, SRO Tomasello:

- 541 interventions with students, parents and staff:
 - Students: Bullying, criminal activity and consequences, cell phone use, appropriate/inappropriate internet use, disruptive and disrespectful behavior, inappropriate language, racial slurs, abuse/neglect, gangs, harassment, theft, physical altercations, drugs, truancy, peer pressure and academic issues.
 - Parents: driving complaints, addressed their child's inappropriate behavior and how to successfully support the child's behavior and productivity in school; appropriate adult behavior, thus providing an added resource for parents.
 - Teachers: has been a resource for staff.
 - Has participated with staff, parents and students in restorative circles, mediation and resolution agreements to help maintain a peaceful school environment. Teen Court was presented to students, parents and staff as an option if behavior did not improve.
 - 5 students have been referred to Teen Court, outcome pending.
 - 2 students referred for Dissemination of Indecent Depictions, 2 students referred for Theft and 1 student referred for Battery.
- Student/Classroom Presentations:
 - SRO introduction, role of Law Enforcement Officer as SRO, expectations of students, crime prevention and reporting crimes, how to remain safe in an emergency situation and ways to avoid becoming a victim.
 - Periodic classroom visits for informal discussion and answering student questions
 - Occasional classroom visits to address poor/disrespectful behavior.
- Periodic daily building security checks were conducted. During these checks, in total 44 unsecured exterior doors were located and addressed with school personnel.
- Conducted one Lock-Down Drill.

Highlights:

- 10/06/16- the school was placed on lock-down based on a bus drivers report of a suspicious subject entering the building. The subject was quickly located and identified as an employee. Although there was no threat, the staff successfully implemented a lock-down.
- 10/20/16- one of the school's social worker brought a 12-year-old student into SRO Tomasello's office. The student reported that she lives with her grandparents, 2 aunts and 2 uncles, and that her grandfather grows "weed" and that it is "harvesting time". The student continued to say that she knows it's illegal and that it stinks. Detective Robbins and members of the Gang Task Force responded to the student's residence, spoke to the grandfather who consented to search of the residence and back yard. Eight (8) pounds of processed and packaged marijuana was confiscated, as well as 25 cannabis plants. The student was turned over to other family members and DCFS was notified.
- 12/07/16- the school's roof top furnace unit malfunctioned and caught fire, causing the cafeteria to fill with smoke, which required the evacuation of students. After the safe evacuation of students, the fire was quickly extinguished and the students were brought into the gym in order to protect them from the cold. Once the building was cleared by the fire department, students returned to class.

SRO Tomasello greets students as they enter the school building, as well as assisting staff in supervising lunch and recess as he is available. SRO Tomasello reports this informal interacting with students has fostered trust and positive relationships. Students approach SRO Tomasello with information reference incidents that have already occurred, or are being planned (i.e. fights). This has enabled SRO Tomasello intervene and bring resolution to students before fights erupt.

The presence of an SRO gives students other options and is having a positive impact within the school and community. In addition, the SRO program has eliminated the school's need to call for assistance from Highway Patrol, thus allowing the Beach Park and District #1 units continue being an asset for the community and responding to other calls for service in a timely manner.

SRO Tomasello reports that the SRO program has proven to be a success and an asset to the Beach Park Middle School.

Please see attached monthly reports.

Respectfully submitted by Lieutenant Andrea Usry

"SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LAKE COUNTY WITH PRIDE"



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SRO Program, Beach Park Middle School Activity Report: August 23, 2016 – September 30, 2016

Students are greeted as they enter the building, supervised during lunch/recess period, and monitored as they are passing to classes or dismissed to the busses. Interacting with students during these times has helped build trust and positive relationships with the students. Staff also received a SRO introduction letter with contact information.

Periodic security checks are conducted at different times throughout the day. During these checks on nine separate occasions ten exterior doors were found to be either unlocked, ajar, or in need of maintenance. It was also discovered that an exterior door was being propped open to gain easy access to the school during the day. The staff member responsible was identified and the issue was addressed by school administration.

During this time frame there have been at least ninety five interventions with students, staff, and parents. Interventions included but are not limited to topics of bullying, criminal damage, cell phone use, battery, academic issues, disruptive and disrespectful behavior, driving complaints, social media use, and inappropriate internet use. Restorative circles, mediation, and resolution agreements were used to help maintain a peaceful environment. The option of Teen Court was also presented to parents as an option if behavior did not improve.

Classroom visits included SRO introduction, open forum discussion, and presentations to students. Topics of why an SRO is in the school and the expectations of students, basic law enforcement and the role of an officer, crime prevention and reporting crime, and ways to stay safe in an emergency and how to avoid becoming a victim were discussed. Approximately ninety two students were present for these events.

The SRO program continues to be successful. The presence and additional option for students to take advantage of is having a positive impact within the school and with the community. Although challenging at times, the benefits of having an SRO in a school are clear.



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SRO Program, Beach Park Middle School

Activity Report: October 1, 2016 – October 31, 2016

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Students continue to be greeted as they enter the building, supervised during lunch/recess period, and monitored as they are passing to classes or dismissed to the busses. Most students seem receptive to the SRO program. They appear more comfortable with the concept as the number of students initiating contact is increasing. Students have even provided tips reference illegal activity occurring outside of school that was investigated and led to arrest.

During October there have been at least forty nine interventions with students, staff, and parents. Interventions include but are not limited to topics of bullying, criminal damage, cell phone use, battery, academic issues, disruptive and disrespectful behavior, social media use, and inappropriate internet use. Restorative circles, mediation, and resolution agreements were used to help maintain a peaceful environment. Four students were referred to Teen Court as a learning experience due to their poor choices.

Security checks were conducted at different times throughout the day. During these checks three exterior doors were found to be either unlocked or ajar.

Periodic classroom visits were made for student interaction and discussions. Presentations to approximately forty six students covered basic law enforcement and the role of a SRO, tools used by officers, types of crime and reporting, and ways to avoid becoming a victim.

On 10/6/16 the school was put on lock down based off a bus driver reporting a suspicious subject entering the building. The subject was quickly located and identified as an employee. Although it was determined there was no threat the staff successfully executed a lock down without incident.

The SRO program has also helped the school to avoid making numerous calls for a Highway Patrol Deputy to respond. This has allowed the Beach Park unit to continue being an asset to the community and respond to other calls for service.



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SRO Program, Beach Park Middle School

Activity Report: November 1, 2016 – November 30, 2016

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The majority of November was spent speaking with students individually or in small groups as issues arose. During November there were at least seventy nine interventions with students, staff, and parents. Some interventions were as simple as sitting down with a student during lunch who is having difficulty making friends and appears depressed. They also included but were not limited to topics of bullying, criminal damage, cell phone use, battery, academic issues, disrespect, disruptive behavior, and inappropriate language including racial slurs.

Restorative circles, mediation, and resolution agreements were used to help maintain a peaceful environment. One student was referred to Teen Court as a learning experience for initiating a physical altercation. I also met with a parent who came in to share a Teen Court success story and express their gratitude for our help.

Security checks were conducted at different times throughout the day. During these checks three exterior doors were found to be either unlocked or ajar.

Periodic classroom visits were made for student interaction and discussions. Most students are receptive and appear to look forward to these visits.



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SRO Program, Beach Park Middle School
Activity Report: December 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

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December was a short month due to winter break. During December there were at least thirty three interventions with students, staff, and parents. Interventions included but were not limited to topics of theft, battery, foster care, threats, unauthorized driving, attendance, harassment, and inappropriate language/sexual comments.

Security checks were conducted at different times throughout the day. During these checks three exterior door were found unlocked.

On 12/7/16 the school experienced a heating malfunction on the roof and the heating unit caught on fire. Students were safely evacuated as the cafeteria was filling with smoke. The fire was quickly extinguished and students were brought into the gym to keep them out of the cold weather. Once the building was clear students returned to class.

Students continue to approach with information about incidents that have occurred or are being planned. This has prevented fights and brought resolution between students before things went too far. There were also two calls to classrooms to speak students being extremely disruptive and becoming aggressive. Conversations with these students were successful as they calmed down and were returned to class. This has helped the school maintain a safe learning environment.



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SRO Program, Beach Park Middle School

Activity Report: January 1, 2017 – January 31, 2017

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During January there were at least fifty-one interventions with students, staff, and parents. Interventions included but were not limited to topics of theft, battery, attendance, harassment, inappropriate language/sexual comments, and unsafe behavior.

In an effort to teach the students to resolve conflict and understand each other better we may suggest they participate in a restorative circle. I have had the opportunity to participate in multiple restorative circles as a mediator at the request of the students.

Periodic classroom visits were made for student interaction and informal discussions. Visits were made to the behavior disorder class and in-school suspension room in an effort to interact with the students having certain difficulties at the school.

During January I have had to separate students engaged in heated verbal arguments at least three times to prevent them from becoming physical. I have been called to the front office to calm a disorderly parent down and to a classroom for a disorderly student. On three occasions a bus returned to the school to have students removed due to a physical altercation or noncompliance. One of the physical altercation in the school cafeteria resulted in two students being referred to Juvenile Court.

Security checks were conducted at different times throughout the day. During these checks two exterior doors were found ajar. I also met with school administration and a security camera system software vendor reference updating the schools video surveillance system.

Students continue to approach with information of incidents that have occurred within the school. This has prevented altercations and assists with investigations conducted at the school.

Initiating conversations with students throughout the day has helped maintain a positive relationship and allowed me to identify students who may be going through a time of crisis. Students have been referred to social workers and directed to valuable resources available to them through the school that otherwise may have been overlooked.



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SRO Program, Beach Park Middle School
Activity Report: February 1, 2017 – February 28, 2017

During the month of February there were at least fifty-eight interventions with students, staff, and parents. Interventions included but were not limited to topics of theft, battery, criminal damage, bullying, gangs, disorderly conduct, attendance, inappropriate touching, and unsafe behavior.

Students are comfortable approaching with information about incidents that occurred, for guidance through difficult situations, and for help with concerns they have. For example, I was approached by a student worried about another juvenile that had made comments online about hurting herself and he didn't know what to do. He provided me the information he had with which the juvenile was eventually identified, located at another school, and provided the services she needed before any potential harm was done.

In regards to safety, security checks were conducted at different times throughout the day. During these checks three exterior doors were found unlocked or ajar. On one occasion a suspicious subject was seen leaving school property and entering a nearby residence. The subject was located, identified, and found to be parking unauthorized vehicles on school property. Due to recent incidents, bomb threat procedures were reviewed with the front office staff.

Periodic classroom visits were made for student interaction and informal discussions. Visits are made to the behavior disorder class and in-school suspension room. I also introduced the Explorers Program to students interested in police work.

On 2/28/17 the school was put into a soft lockdown due to a possibly armed burglary suspect on foot in the area. The soft lockdown was successfully executed. Once the area was determined to be clear the soft lockdown was lifted without incident.

On three occasions a bus returned to the school to have students removed due to a physical altercation or noncompliance. One student was referred to Teen Court due to a physical altercation within the school.

The SRO program is a continuing success. It is building a strong, positive relation not only with the students but with their families as well.



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SRO Program, Beach Park Middle School **Activity Report: March 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017**

During the month of March there were at least sixty interventions with students, staff, and parents. Interventions included but were not limited to topics of bullying, battery, attendance, abuse/neglect, anger/retaliation, disrespect, theft/lost property, and suicide.

Security checks were conducted at different times throughout the day. During these checks three exterior doors were found unlocked or ajar.

Presentations were made to approximately seventy-two students. These presentations focused on crime scenes and investigations. Pamphlets explaining the Explorers Program were passed out to students.

At the request of school administration, I accompanied staff members at two home visits. The school was having difficulty contacting the parents to complete required documents and/or there was a safety concern due a history of abuse and domestic violence at the residence.

Students continue to approach with information or just to have a general conversation. In addition, students are more frequently requesting visits to their classrooms. The SRO program is allowing the students to have a positive experience with law enforcement. Hopefully, this will carry forward with them and help rebuilt trust within the community.



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SRO Program, Beach Park Middle School

Activity Report: April 1, 2017 – April 30, 2017

**EMERGENCY
DIAL 911**

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(847) 377-4400**

During the month of April there were at least sixty-four interventions with students, staff, and parents. Interventions included but were not limited to topics of truancy, battery, drugs, social media use, and theft of mislaid property.

**Communications
(847) 549-5200**

At the request of school administration, I accompanied staff members at two home visits. Multiple locker searches were also conducted due to safety concerns. I was also called to for disruptive students on seven occasions.

**Community
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(847) 377-4211**

**Court Security
(847) 377-4911**

On a positive note, I recognized and rewarded a student who had reported information to me about a juvenile from another school that was making suicidal comments.

**Criminal
Investigations
(847) 377-4250**

We conducted a lockdown drill which went well as did all security checks this month.

**Emergency
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(847) 377-7100**

I made it a point to spend extra time with the students who had been sent to in-school suspension. This program has been renamed to "restart". Students are now asked to use part of their day to discuss the poor decisions they made, reflect on them, identify who they effected, and explain how they can make better decisions in the future.

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SRO Program, Beach Park Middle School
Activity Report: May 1, 2017 – June 2, 2017

From the beginning of May until the end of the school year there were at least eighty-five interventions with students, staff, and parents. Interventions included but were not limited to topics of gangs, theft, battery, social media, criminal damage, peer pressure, and bullying.

At the request of school administration, I assisted with a locker search and accompanied staff members to one home visit.

Security checks were conducted at different times throughout the day. During these checks two exterior doors were found unlocked or ajar.

Students requested my assistance with school projects in digital media. I attended the school district annual safety meeting and the eighth-grade graduation.

On one occasion, I was called for assistance with a student who was upset and walked off the property. I made contact and convinced him to return without incident. I was called to a classroom for a disruptive student and to the main office for an irate parent. I investigated a suspicious vehicle that had approached a student at the bus stop and assisted with traffic control at the school. Two students were referred to Teen Court for making poor choices.

I introduced myself and spoke to approximately one hundred thirty-one fifth grade students who will be attending Beach Park Middle School. This was a basic introduction to familiarize them with me, start a positive relationship, and inform them of some simple expectations.

Students seem comfortable having an SRO in the school. They continue to approach with information, request classroom visits, or just to have a general conversation and ask for advice. The SRO program appears to be having a positive impact on the school which has extended into the community.