

DATE: October 5, 1999
TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Dennis J. Cassidy, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: School Crossing Guard Program

NEEDS: For the City Council to approve transferring management of the school crossing guard program to the Paso Robles Unified School District.

- FACTS:**
1. The City of Paso Robles has managed the school crossing guard program for many years, employing personnel to man identified intersections for the morning, lunch and afternoon school pedestrian commute as follows:
 - a. 34th Street/ Spring Street
 - b. 17th Street/ Spring Street
 - c. Creston Road/Winifred Pifer School
 - d. Creston Road/Meadowlark Drive (until enrollment boundaries were redrawn in 1997)
 2. The Safe Schools Act of 1989 caused the Paso Robles Unified School District to further consider safety in traffic corridors relative to the commute for children to and from school. Subsequently, they chose to augment the City's school crossing guard program with the addition of School District employees acting as crossing guards at the following locations:
 - a. 17th Street/Vine Street
 - b. Creston Road/Lewis Middle School
 3. The Police Department and PRUSD have been working together for many years toward having one agency manage the entire crossing guard program.
 4. PRUSD recently offered to take over management of the program and proceeded rapidly once that decision was made.

ANALYSIS & CONCLUSION:

The Paso Robles Police Department and the Paso Robles Unified School District both recognize the benefits of having one agency coordinate and manage the School Crossing Guard program for the City of Paso Robles. By having one agency take the lead in this program, there is better consistency in training and daily operations relative to school safety crossing. During discussions on this issue over the summer, PRUSD offered to take over management of the program, and then moved quickly to that end in order to complete hiring for the 1999/00 school year. As a result, PRUSD is currently employing all crossing guards and managing the program.

A shared cost arrangement has been made which is mutually satisfying to both parties. The current dollar amount spent by the City on crossing guard salary/benefit costs will be transferred from the Police Department's part-time salary/benefit accounts into its professional services account and paid to PRUSD to continue to assist with the financial obligation of the program.

POLICY REFERENCE: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: No new fiscal impact. \$18,100 salary/benefit cost to be converted to a recurring M&O expense and paid to the Paso Robles Unified School District.

- OPTIONS:**
- a. Approve transferring management of the school crossing guard program to the Paso Robles Unified School District.
 - b. Amend, modify or reject the above option.