

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.28
(ID # 15035)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, May 11, 2021

FROM : SHERIFF-CORONER-PA:

SUBJECT: SHERIFF-CORONER-PA: Ratify and Approve the Law Enforcement Services Agreement between the County of Riverside and the Palm Springs Unified School District for the Sheriff's Provision of a School Resource Officer, District 4. [\$18,943 - School Services Law Enforcement Revenue 100%]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Ratify and approve the Law Enforcement Services Agreement between the County of Riverside and the Palm Springs Unified School District for the Sheriff's Provision of a School Resource Officer, and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute three (3) copies of the attached Agreement on behalf of the County.

ACTION: Policy


Donald Sharp, Assistant Sheriff 4/27/2021

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Hewitt and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: May 11, 2021
xc: Sheriff

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 18,943	\$ 0	\$ 18,943	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: School Services Law Enforcement Revenue 100%			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	20/21

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BR: 21-064

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 04/07/20 3.47

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The Assistant Superintendent of Business Services for the Palm Springs Unified School District has approved the FY20/21 law enforcement services agreement with Riverside County Sheriff's Department. The District has requested that the Sheriff's School Resource Officer (SRO) return to campus for a modified schedule beginning in April 2021. FY2020-21 estimated law enforcement cost is estimated at \$18,943. The Department has included the cost estimate in its budget; therefore, no budget adjustment is necessary. County Counsel has approved the Agreement as to form.

Impact on Residents and Businesses


The Sheriff and the District share common goals that include the provision of programs that address the needs of students at risk. The SROs serve as a visual deterrent to aberrant behavior and thereby enhance the District's campus control and student protection. All costs will be fully recovered through Board approved contract rates.

Additional Fiscal Information

3 - Law Enforcement Services Agreement between the County of Riverside and the Palm Springs Unified School District for the Sheriff's Provision of a School Resource Officer.


Cherilyn Williams

4/29/2021


Gregory V. Priamos, Director County Counsel

4/22/2021

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE AND THE PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S PROVISION OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between the COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, hereinafter "COUNTY", a political subdivision of the State of California, on behalf of its Sheriff's Department, hereinafter "SHERIFF", and the PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, a California public school district, hereinafter "DISTRICT".

WHEREAS, SHERIFF and DISTRICT have identified a need to provide additional law enforcement among DISTRICT's school sites; and

WHEREAS, SHERIFF and DISTRICT share common goals that include providing support for the education process by implementing a school community policing approach within DISTRICT's jurisdiction that addresses school crime and safety issues and focuses on the needs of students at risk; and

WHEREAS, SHERIFF and DISTRICT desire to work cooperatively in this school community policing approach by entering into this Agreement to place Deputy Sheriff(s) as School Resource Officer(s), herein after referred to as SRO or SROs, on the DISTRICT campuses as needed to assist in the teaching of police science classes and to be a visual deterrent to aberrant behavior and thereby enhance DISTRICT's campus control and student protection;

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. TERM This Agreement shall be effective the first day District schools open for hybrid in-person learning through June 4, 2021, unless sooner terminated as provided in Paragraph 8.

2. SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. SHERIFF agrees to provide one (1) SRO, who will be assigned to the DISTRICT campuses as follows: one SRO will be assigned to and be responsible for duties at the Rancho Mirage High School. The duties of the SRO shall include provision of class presentations on relevant law enforcement issues, patrol of school campuses, investigation of crimes, maintenance of order on campuses, counseling of students and their parents, and serving as liaisons at school sites. The SRO will also serve a liaison role between the educators employed by the DISTRICT, the School Attendance Review Boards (S.A.R.B.), the Probation Department, and other law enforcement officials, and perform other related duties. It is understood that the SRO will be assigned to DISTRICT on a full-time basis throughout the school year.

B. DISTRICT agrees to comply with all reasonable requests of SHERIFF necessary to the performance of SRO's duties under this Agreement. DISTRICT agrees to furnish office space for use by the SRO while performing the above-described services.

3. MODIFICATION OF SERVICES No portion of the services or responsibilities of either party described in this Agreement may be eliminated, reduced, or appreciably changed without the mutual written consent of both parties.

4. COMPENSATION DISTRICT shall reimburse SHERIFF the full cost of rendering service pursuant to this Agreement. Such cost of services shall be established by the County Board of Supervisors in the form of an hourly rate for an SRO and a mileage rate, and shall include all items of cost and expense to the Sheriff for providing the services hereunder. Total cost to DISTRICT under this Agreement is estimated to be \$18,943. SHERIFF has based this cost estimate on a projection of service hours and mileage for FY 2020-21 and anticipated contract rate adjustments. Payment for services shall be rendered on a monthly basis upon receipt by DISTRICT of a proper invoice submitted by SHERIFF.

5. VACATION AND HOLIDAY TIME SRO's vacation time shall not conflict with the schedule of duties mutually developed by DISTRICT and SHERIFF. Because DISTRICT and SHERIFF holidays may not correspond, holiday time will be taken by the SRO in accordance with DISTRICT holidays during the contract period. The excess days shall be taken with reasonable notice to DISTRICT, but shall not conflict with the schedule of duties mutually developed by DISTRICT and SHERIFF.

6. ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION SHERIFF (or designee) shall administer this Agreement and supervise the SRO on behalf of the County of Riverside. The Superintendent of DISTRICT (or designee) shall administer this Agreement on behalf of DISTRICT.

7. COUNTY EMPLOYEE SRO shall remain employees of SHERIFF on special assignment to DISTRICT for the purposes set forth in this Agreement, and shall not be considered agents, employees, or deputies of DISTRICT.

8. TERMINATION Either party may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving written notice to the other party of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, at least thirty (30) days before the effective date of such termination. In the event of termination, District shall pay for services actually rendered through the termination date only.

9. HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFICATION

A. DISTRICT shall indemnify and hold harmless the County, its Agencies, Districts, Special Districts and Departments, their respective directors, officers, Board of Supervisors, elected and appointed officials, employees, agents and representatives from any liability, claim, damage or action whatsoever, based or asserted upon any act or omission of DISTRICT, its officers, employees, contractors, agents or representatives arising out of or in any way relating to this Agreement, including but not limited to property damage, bodily injury, or death. DISTRICT shall defend, at its sole cost and expense, including but not limited to attorney fees, cost of investigation, defense and settlements or awards, the County, its Agencies, Districts, Special Districts and Departments, their respective directors, officers, Board of Supervisors, elected and appointed officials, employees, agents and representatives in any such action or claim. With respect

to any action or claim subject to indemnification herein by DISTRICT, DISTRICT shall, at its sole cost, have the right to use counsel of its own choice and shall have the right to adjust, settle, or compromise any such action or claim without the prior consent of County; provided, however, that any such adjustment, settlement or compromise in no manner whatsoever limits or circumscribes DISTRICT's indemnification of County. DISTRICT's obligations hereunder shall be satisfied when DISTRICT has provided to County the appropriate form of dismissal (or similar document) relieving the County from any liability for the action or claim involved. Any insurance coverage shall in no way limit or circumscribe DISTRICT's obligations to indemnify and hold harmless the County.

B. County shall indemnify and hold harmless the DISTRICT, its Agencies, Districts, Special Districts and Departments, their respective directors, officers, elected and appointed officials, employees, agents and representatives from any liability, claim, damage or action whatsoever, based or asserted upon any act or omission of County, its officers, employees, contractors, agents or representatives arising out of or in any way relating to this Agreement, including but not limited to property damage, bodily injury, or death. County shall defend, at its sole cost and expense, including but not limited to attorney fees, cost of investigation, defense and settlements or awards, the DISTRICT, its Agencies, Districts, Special Districts and Departments, their respective directors, officers, elected and appointed officials, employees, agents and representatives in any such action or claim. With respect to any action or claim subject to indemnification herein by County, County shall, at its sole cost, have the right to use counsel of its own choice and shall have the right to adjust, settle, or compromise any such action or claim without the prior consent of DISTRICT; provided, however, that any such adjustment, settlement or compromise in no manner whatsoever limits or circumscribes County's indemnification of DISTRICT. County's obligations hereunder shall be satisfied when County has provided to DISTRICT the appropriate form of dismissal (or similar document) relieving the DISTRICT from any liability for the action or claim involved. Any insurance coverage shall in no way limit or circumscribe County's obligations to indemnify and hold harmless the DISTRICT.

10. ASSIGNMENT Neither this Agreement nor any duties or obligations under this Agreement may be assigned by DISTRICT without prior written consent of SHERIFF.

11. ENTIRE AGREEMENT This Agreement supersedes any and all agreements, either oral or written, between the parties, and contains all of the covenants and agreements between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. Each party acknowledges that no other agreement, understanding or promise, oral or otherwise, relative to this subject matter exists between the parties at the time of execution of this Agreement. Any modification of this Agreement shall be effective only if it is in writing and signed by both parties.

12. NOTICES Any notice required or desired to be served by either party upon the other shall be addressed to the respective parties as set forth below:

Sheriff

Chad Bianco, Sheriff
Riverside County Sheriff's Department
Post Office Box 512
Riverside, California 92502

District

Palm Springs Unified School District
150 District Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264
Attn.: Superintendent

An information copy of any notice to Sheriff shall also be sent to:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Riverside
4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor
Riverside, California 92501

13. WAIVER Any waiver by SHERIFF of any breach of any one or more of the terms of this agreement shall not be construed to be a waiver of any subsequent or other breach of the same or of any other term thereof. Failure on the part of SHERIFF to require exact, full, and complete compliance with any term of this Agreement shall not be construed in any manner as changing the terms hereof, or estopping SHERIFF from enforcement hereof.

14. SEVERABILITY If any provision of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions will nevertheless continue in full force without being impaired or invalidated in any way.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the parties hereto have signed in confirmation of this Agreement on the dates indicated below.

PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: _____

By: *Brian J. Murray* 4/21/21
Brian J. Murray, Ed.D.,
Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

ATTEST:

Name:
Title:

By: _____

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Dated: 05-11-2021

By: *Karen S. Spiegel*
Karen Spiegel
Chair of the Board
Riverside County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board

By: *Lisa Sanchez*
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Greg P. Priamos
County Counsel

By: *Lisa Sanchez*
Lisa Sanchez
Deputy County Counsel

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 4:03 PM
To: COB
Subject: BOS web comments

First Name: Donatella

Last Name: Galella

Agenda Date: 05/11/2021 :

Agenda Item # or
Public Comment: 3.28

State your
position below: Oppose

Comments: I'm an educator, and I oppose having more funding for cops in schools. Research suggests that they do not make students safer and instead, we have seen so many incidents of them harming students. Instead, funding should go to much more useful items like counseling and after-school arts programs because studies show that these kinds of program improve outcomes for students.

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 10:42 AM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission



First Name: Avalon
Last Name: Edwards
Phone: 6506448818
Agenda Date: :
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.28 & 3.30
State your position below: Oppose

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210511. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 5:16 PM
To: COB
Subject: BOS web comments

First Name: Enako
Last Name: Jefferson
Email: enakojefferson678@gmail.com

Agenda Date: 05/11/2021 :

**Agenda Item #
or Public** item 3.28,

Comment:

**State your
position below:** Oppose

Comments: My name is Enako Jefferson and I'm a Riverside County resident. I'm writing an email in opposition to item 3.28, which would provide the Palm Springs Unified School District with a School Resource Officer from the Sheriff's Department. We understand that the Board's vote on such contracts is usually a formality, and that this item does not require use of County funds. However, this vote is more than that - it is a statement on how our county and school districts choose to educate children of color.

Over 80% of the students in the PSUSD are children of color. The district already employs 31 campus security officers, 5 substitute officers, and 8 district patrol officers, in addition to the 4 SROs contracted across multiple law enforcement agencies. These positions create a network of surveillance and punishment, which leads to disproportionate involvement of youth of color in the juvenile punishment system rather than increased campus safety.

SROs are asked to patrol schools, investigate crimes, maintain order on campus, and counsel students and parents. SROs are expected to treat students like suspects rather than children, which makes them uniquely unqualified to serve as counselors for students and parents. This item requires \$19,000 in school district funding, which would be better spent on resources for the students of the PSUSD, such as trauma-informed counseling, tutoring, new school supplies and books, sports equipment, or art programming.

I respectfully request that the Board vote against providing the PSUSD with an SRO from the Sheriff's Department. Thank you

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 5:05 PM
To: COB
Subject: Board comments web submission

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system.
DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



First Name: Luis
Last Name: Nolasco
Phone: 9097237409
Agenda Date: :
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.28
State your position below: Oppose

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210511. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 5:34 PM
To: COB
Subject: BOS web comments

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system.
DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

First Name: Rabbi Suzanne
Last Name: Singer
Email: sznsinger@gmail.com
Agenda Date: 05/11/2021 :

Agenda Item #
or Public 28

Comment:
State your position below: Oppose

Comments: I strongly oppose this agreement. Almost 90% of PSUSD students are children of color. PSUSD already employs 31 campus security officers, 5 campus security substitute officers, and 8 district patrol officers, in addition to the 4 SROs that are contracted across varying law enforcement agencies. These positions create a network of surveillance and punishment, which leads to disproportionate involvement of youth of color in the juvenile punishment system, rather than increased campus safety. SROs are expected to patrol school campuses, investigate crimes, maintain order on campus, and counsel students and parents. When we treat our public schools like crime scenes rather than sites of learning and growth, what does that say about how we value students of color in our county? What qualifies a cop to counsel students and their families?

As a member of the clergy and a rabbi, I believe children should be treated in a more humane way.

328

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 7:24 PM
To: COB; peterhenrysisson04@gmail.com
Subject: Board comments web submission



First Name: Peter
Last Name: Sisson
Address (Street, City and Zip): 5357 Quail Run Rd, Apt 313
Phone: 4843266199
Email: peterhenrysisson04@gmail.com
Agenda Date: :
Agenda Item # or Public 3.28
Comment:
State your position below: Oppose
Comments: Hello Board of Supervisors,

My name is Peter Sisson, and I am a Riverside County resident. I am emailing to encourage the Board to vote in opposition to item #3.28. We understand that the district worked with the Sheriff's Department to contract an SRO, and that the Board's vote on such contracts is usually a formality. However, today's vote is more than that - it is a statement on how our county and school districts choose to educate children of color.

We are all invested in healthy child development and safety for our communities, and this agenda item works against these goals. Studies have shown time and time again that policing in school environments hinders healthy child development and academic success. We know that the school-to-prison pipeline is aided by police presence in schools and disproportionately affects students of color. Almost 90% of the students in the Palm Springs Unified School District are children of color. The district already employs 31 campus security officers, 5 campus security substitute officers, and 8 district patrol officers, in addition to the 4 SROs that are contracted across varying law enforcement agencies. These positions create a network of surveillance and punishment, which leads to disproportionate involvement of youth of color in the juvenile punishment system, rather than increased campus safety.

According to their job description, "resource officers" are expected to patrol school campuses, investigate crimes, maintain order on campus, and counsel students and parents. In the Form 11 for this item, it states that, "SROs serve as a visual deterrent to aberrant behavior and thereby enhance the District's campus control and student protection." When we treat our public schools like crime scenes rather than sites of learning and growth, what does that say about how we value students of color in our county? SROs are meant to treat students like suspects rather than children, which makes them uniquely unqualified to serve as counselors for students and parents. This item requires \$19,000

in school district funding, which would be much better spent on resources for the students of Palm Springs Unified School District, such as trauma-informed counseling, tutoring, new school supplies and books, sports equipment, or art programming.

Students have already rallied to call for an end to the use of RSOs by the PSUSD. Student leaders have said that "It's critical now that our district sets the example in taking direct action to protect black youth in their schools... PSUSD must consider the impact that police presence has on the safety and emotional well-being of students of color, especially our black youth." It is crucial that we consider youth voices when we make decisions about their safety and education. Riverside County leadership should encourage school districts to follow the lead of Coachella Valley Unified School District, which voted against a \$300,000 contract with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in favor of implementing a restorative justice system to foster community safety.

The community is moving away from policing children and I encourage the board of supervisors to do the same. Thank you.

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210511. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 10:29 PM
To: COB
Subject: BOS web comments

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First Name: Amy
Last Name: Vasquez
Email: limeaboutsomething@outlook.com
Agenda Date: 05/11/2021 :
Agenda Item # or Public 3.28
Comment:
State your position below: Oppose
Comments: Good Morning,

I strongly oppose approving a contract for a "School Resource Officer", having officer(s) on school campuses invokes the exact opposite affect that I believe you are aiming to achieve. We have many examples of officers murdering black and brown adults and children especially during mental health crisis. Officers are too quick to misuse their authority, weapons, and excessive force. Instead of spending time writing up contracts and preparing budgets for an officer on campus we should be proposing contracts and budgets for onsite good hearted counselors and nurses. These are the types of resources that are needed in schools.

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 6:24 PM
To: COB
Subject: BOS web comments

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First Name: Lydia
Last Name: Theon Ware i
Email: Ltwarei@gmail.com
Agenda Date: 05/11/2021 :
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: Shirffs Contract with PSUSD

State your position below: Oppose

Comments: I am a BIOPIC woman and i am opposed to the contract that is up for approval. I do not want children of color to be crimailized or profiled for juvenile courts because thsy are "acting out". That is what detention and school counselors are for. Please do not approve this contract. I am a Riverside county resident. Thank you.

Maxwell, Sue

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 9:38 AM
To: COB; Yo.justicetable1147@gmail.com
Subject: Board comments web submission

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First Name: Redd
Phone: 6619043274
Email: Yo.justicetable1147@gmail.com
Agenda Date: 05/11/2021 :
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.28
State your position below: Oppose

Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use Meeting ID #864 4411 6015 . Password is 20210511. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Maxwell, Sue

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 9:32 AM
To: COB; melvinakaapallo@gmail.com
Subject: Board comments web submission



First Name: Redd
Last Name: MartineZ
Phone: 6619043274
Email: melvinakaapallo@gmail.com
Agenda Date: 05/11/2021 :
Agenda Item # or Public Comment: 3.28
State your position below: Oppose

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Maxwell, Sue

From: cob@rivco.org
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 9:31 AM
To: COB
Subject: BOS web comments

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system.
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First Name: Dylan
Last Name: Rodriguez
Email: dylanrodriguez73@gmail.com
Agenda Date: 05/11/2021 :

**Agenda Item #
or Public** Public comment

Comment:

**State your
position below:** Oppose

Comments: Riverside County Board of Supervisors is voting to ratify a contract between the Sheriff's Department and the Palm Springs Unified School District for a School Resource Officer.

These positions create a network of surveillance and punishment, which leads to disproportionate involvement of youth of color in the juvenile punishment system, rather than increased campus safety.

SROs are expected to patrol school campuses, investigate crimes, maintain order on campus, and counsel students and parents. When we treat our public schools like crime scenes rather than sites of learning and growth, what does that say about how we value students of color in our county? What qualifies a cop to counsel students and their families?

From: cob@rivco.org <cob@rivco.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8:47 AM
To: COB <COB@RIVCO.ORG>
Subject: BOS web comments

First Name: Jessica
Last Name: Gutierrez
Email: jguti045@ucr.edu
Agenda Date: 05/11/2021 :
Agenda Item # or
Public Comment: item #3.28

State your
position below: Oppose

Comments: My name is Jessica Gutierrez, and I am a Riverside County resident. I am emailing to encourage the Board to vote in opposition to item #3.28. We understand that the district worked with the Sheriff's Department to contract an SRO, and that the Board's vote on such contracts is usually a formality. However, today's vote is more than that - it is a statement on how our county and school districts choose to educate children of color.

We are all invested in healthy child development and safety for our communities, and this agenda item works against these goals. Studies have shown time and time again that policing in school environments hinders healthy child development and academic success. We know that the school-to-prison pipeline is aided by police presence in schools and disproportionately affects students of color. Almost 90% of the students in the Palm Springs Unified School District are children of color. The district already employs 31 campus security officers, 5 campus security substitute officers, and 8 district patrol officers, in addition to the 4 SROs that are contracted across varying law enforcement agencies. These positions create a network of surveillance and punishment, which leads to disproportionate involvement of youth of color in the juvenile punishment system, rather than increased campus safety.

According to their job description, "resource officers" are expected to patrol school campuses, investigate crimes, maintain order on campus, and counsel students and parents. In the Form 11 for this item, it states that, "SROs serve as a visual deterrent to aberrant behavior and thereby enhance the District's campus control and student protection." When we treat our public schools like crime scenes rather than sites of learning and growth, what does that say about how we value students of color in our county? SROs are meant to treat students like suspects rather than children, which makes them uniquely unqualified to serve as counselors for students and parents. This item requires \$19,000 in school district funding, which would be much better spent on resources for the students of Palm Springs Unified School District, such as trauma-informed counseling, tutoring, new school supplies and books, sports equipment, or art programming.

Students have already rallied to call for an end to the use of RSOs by the PSUSD. Student leaders have said that "It's critical now that our district sets the example in taking direct action to protect black youth in their schools... PSUSD must consider the impact that police presence has on the safety and emotional well-being of students of color, especially our black youth." It is crucial that we consider youth voices when we make decisions about their safety and education. Riverside County leadership should encourage school districts to follow the lead of Coachella Valley Unified School District, which voted against a \$300,000 contract with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in favor of implementing a restorative justice system to foster community safety.

The community is moving away from policing children and I encourage the board of supervisors to do the same. Thank you.

5/11/21 3.28