



Town of Dumfries
Council Meeting

Meeting Date: January 22, 2013

Agenda Item# VI - E

AGENDA ITEM FORM

TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM:

- CONSENT AGENDA
- PRESENTATION
- ACTION ITEM
- TOWN MANAGER & STAFF COMMENTS
- PUBLIC HEARING
 - Duly Advertised

PURPOSE OF ITEM:

- INFORMATION ONLY
- DISCUSSION ONLY
- DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION
 - Introduction
 - Ordinance
 - By Motion
 - Certificate
 - Resolution
 - Grant/MOU
 - Bylaws

PRESENTER: Kristin Forrester

PRESENTER TITLE: Councilwoman

AGENDA ITEM:

Discussion/Action on funding for School Resource Officer (SRO) at Dumfries Elementary School

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:

Dumfries Elementary is the only school that sits within the Town's limits.

The Dumfries Police Department (PD) has always played a supportive role with the school as part of the community policing philosophy adopted by the Department. The Officers have routinely visited the school to build relationships with students/faculty and to assist with security concerns when necessary. The school community and Council Members have noted and celebrated the positive impact that this routine interaction has on the climate of the school.

SROs are a specialized and highly trained group of law enforcement officers who work with students in school buildings, on a daily basis, for the purpose of providing physical security but also for the purpose of supporting behavioral and academic success of students through targeted intervention, relationship building and mentoring initiatives.

Historically, SROs around the County have faced challenges with fully and appropriately reaching students in the intended time schedule and with the needed dedication. A number of factors impede the process; lack of funding to allow direct and singular school assignment, a redirect of duties because of court appearance or gaps in police staffing in other areas, and a lack of funding to place SROs at the elementary level are just a few of the challenges.

While acknowledging that police support at the schools is a County level funding responsibility, we also must recognize that the County is not, at this time, stepping up to provide such resources. In fact, the County is currently considering shifting such funding from the County PD budget into the LEA budget, a move that could have significant adverse effects. Regardless, the budget at the County level does not currently provide SRO funding for elementary schools.

We, as the Town governing body, have the ability to provide funding for a fulltime, fully trained, and dedicated SRO to serve our elementary population.

Considerations about what the County "should" do are not justifiable reasons to alleviate ourselves from the responsibility we have to the success and safety of our youngest citizens.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

REQUESTED ACTION: NO ACTION REQUESTED

I am asking fellow Council members to stand with me to direct the Town Manager to create a formalized SRO position within the Town PD and to allocate funding at the mid-year budget review and as a part of the coming year budget to secure a full time and fully trained SRO.

Salary should be in line with the Standard PD scale. Training, to include Basic SRO, Advanced SRO, CPTED practitioner, Lockdown Enhancement, and Active Shooter Response will run approximately \$2,500 through the National Association of SROs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Phone#:

Name:

E-mail:

FOR USE DURING MEETING

VOTE:

PASSED

NOT PASSED

Y N

Y N

Y N

 Brewer
 Reynolds
 Wood

 Foreman
 Toney

 Forrester
 Washington