

TO: Mayor Thomas R. Kneeland
Director of Public Safety
Director of Finance
Members of City Council
City Attorney
Clerk of Council

FROM: Jeffrey B. Spence; Chief of Police

DATE: June 19, 2019

SUBJECT: Report to Council – June 24, 2019

ACTION ITEMS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

ACTION ITEM # 1 – School Resource Officer Contract 2019-2020

The Division of Police respectfully requests Council authorize the Mayor to enter into the attached School Resource Officer (SRO) contract with the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools (GJPS) for the 2019-2020 school year – See Attachment A.

Under the newly proposed SRO contract with GJPS, the district will pay 75% of the costs associated with one officer providing SRO services to Gahanna-Lincoln High School and 50% of the cost of the second GLHS-based SRO. This is an increase from the previously billed 50% of total cost which has been the amount since the contract's inception in the early 2000's. The amount for the 2019-2020 school year which will be billed to the district is \$190,511.00 (billed monthly); a \$52,418 increase in costs paid by the district to the City – See Attachment B.

An emergency and waiver is requested in order for the contract to be passed through the Council and School Board process prior to the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. No supplemental appropriation of funds is necessary in order to proceed with the requested contract.

Requested Legislation and Funding

- Legislation Needed: Ordinance
- Emergency/Waiver: Both requested
- Name & Address: Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools; 140 S. Hamilton Road; Gahanna, OH 43230
- Already Appropriated (Amounts & Accounts Names/Titles): NA
- Supplemental/Transfer (Amounts & Account Names/Titles): NA

Attachments

- ATTACHMENT A – 2019-2020 SRO CONTRACT
- ATTACHMENT B – EXPLANATION OF COSTS

UPDATES

Dispatch Center Co-Location Briefing

This month Mifflin Township will be finalizing the purchase of the former Columbus Metropolitan Library operations building located at 101 S. Stygler Road in Gahanna. The purchase of this building by township officials was, in part, designed to relocate the Metropolitan Emergency Communications Center (MECC) which is located within Creekside's C Building. The MECC currently dispatches fire and EMS services for seven area fire departments including Mifflin Township.

Since 2009, the Division of Police has partnered with Mifflin Township, MECC, Whitehall, Reynoldsburg, Bexley and New Albany on several emergency dispatching projects to include interoperable radio systems, Computer-Aided Dispatch/Records Management Systems (CAD/RMS) and Next-Generation 9-1-1 technology including the delivery of Text-To-911 capability. By August the Division of Police will complete its transition to becoming a wireless Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP); one of six in Franklin County. With this infrastructure already in place, the co-location of dispatching services with Mifflin Township in the space recently acquired would uniquely position the City to have an advanced emergency communications facility located on the east side of Franklin County. Given the infrastructure and the interoperability already in place, the co-location of dispatching services between the City and Township would capitalize on the many investments by both units of government since 2009.

The co-location of dispatching services was first explored by then Mayor McGregor in 2000. Council authorized the expenditure of funds and the hiring of a consultant to explore an east side communications facility with the City of Reynoldsburg. At the time the plan was very forward-thinking, but we lacked interoperable radio systems, consolidated 9-1-1 technology and much of the infrastructure to make the plan work. The co-location of the MECC and the Division of Police will not encounter the obstacles in technology that made the effort in 2000 unworkable as these problems have been solved. In addition, the blueprint for a successful center has already been written with the Northeast Regional Emergency Communications Center (NRECC) in Dublin which services Dublin, Washington Township, Norwich Township, Upper Arlington, Hilliard and soon, Worthington. The same capabilities and services can be replicated and improved upon with the partnership between the City and Township.

We believe that the City's investment for the co-location of services in 2020 will not exceed \$500,000 which the Division will include in its 2020 Capital Needs Assessment for Council to review. We would ask that Council and the Administration consider this as a request by the Division to begin programming work with Mifflin Township for the co-location of dispatching services within the newly acquired property in Gahanna.