

RESOLUTION R-5339

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND AFFIRMING THE PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KIRKLAND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS WITHIN THE LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT AND IMPLEMENTING A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION TO ENSURE THAT THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM FOLLOWS NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES AND IS AMONG THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY

1 WHEREAS, the Lake Washington School District ("District") and
2 the local jurisdictions within the District, including the cities of Kirkland,
3 Redmond, Sammamish and unincorporated King County, have had a
4 long and positive partnership of providing School Resource Officers
5 ("SROs") in the high schools within the District; and
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7 WHEREAS, the purpose of providing SROs within the high
8 schools in the District is to help provide student safety and social
9 emotional wellness at school, and to establish partnerships and positive
10 relationships between the Police agencies, students, teachers and
11 school administrators; and
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13 WHEREAS, in response to recent school shootings and other
14 safety concerns, some students, parents and community members have
15 asked both the District, and the local jurisdictions within the District, to
16 expand the SRO program to all the middle schools in the District; and
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18 WHEREAS, the District has responded to these community
19 requests by including funding for fifty percent of the compensation cost
20 of SROs in each middle school in the District in the District budget; and
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22 WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland ("City") has included match
23 funding for SROs in Kirkland middle schools in a community safety ballot
24 measure that has been placed before the voters of Kirkland on
25 November 6, 2018; and
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27 WHEREAS, the possible expansion of the SRO program into
28 middle schools in Kirkland provides an important opportunity for all
29 members of the communities within the District to be educated on the
30 current SRO program and compare the program to national best
31 practices; and
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33 WHEREAS, the responsibilities of SROs are articulated through a
34 contractual agreement between the District and the City; and
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36 WHEREAS, under the contract, the City is required to provide
37 state certified law enforcement SROs who present a positive image of

38 the police agency and who have the high-caliber education, background,
39 communication skills and interest to provide effective teaching services;
40 and

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42 WHEREAS, to provide experienced, effective SROs who meet the
43 needs of the students and the District, the City has adopted policies for
44 the SRO program, a rigorous hiring process for SROs that includes
45 identifying officers that demonstrate the ability to create positive
46 relationships with students, and requires that any officer who is selected
47 as an SRO must first complete specific, nationally certified school
48 resource officer training, as well as crisis intervention and de-escalation
49 training prior to being assigned to a school; and

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51 WHEREAS, under the contract, SROs must have the ability to
52 deal effectively with diverse populations, provide quality law
53 enforcement educational services, and demonstrate the desire and
54 ability to work cooperatively with school staff; and

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56 WHEREAS, some of the key duties of the SROs under the
57 contract include: providing law enforcement input into school-based
58 security; reviewing security training and systems; teaching classes on
59 criminal justice-related topics and other topics mutually agreed to by
60 the City and the District; acting as a resource for law enforcement
61 education; providing guidance to students while maintaining peace on
62 District property; referring students to social agencies as appropriate;
63 providing Police guidance counseling when requested by the
64 administration and mutually agreed to by all parties; and provide law
65 enforcement services to the District as needed; and

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67 WHEREAS, the contract requires that SROs produce a quarterly
68 report regarding SRO activities required by the District and the City that
69 is provided to the District and the Kirkland Police Chief; and

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71 WHEREAS, it is the intention of the City and the District that the
72 SRO program builds positive relationships between police agencies and
73 students ,regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age,
74 income or economic status, political affiliation, military status, sexual
75 orientation, or physical, mental or sensory ability, that the SROs provide
76 social emotional support along with District staff, and that SROs are a
77 resource for troubled students that results in more students receiving
78 needed services and diversion of students from the criminal justice
79 system; and

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81 WHEREAS, during deliberations regarding the elements of the
82 community safety ballot measure, the Kirkland Human Services
83 Commission and other Kirkland residents highlighted that SROs in
84 middle schools would be new to Kirkland, and that the program would

85 benefit from a community conversation about how the SRO program
86 should incorporate national best practices to be successful; and
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88 WHEREAS, the District and the City recognize that a program as
89 important as the SRO program must maintain the highest levels of
90 community trust, transparency and accountability, and encourage
91 community input and feedback on how to keep the SRO program among
92 the best in the nation.

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94 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City
95 of Kirkland as follows:
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97 Section 1. The City Council affirms it is the City's intent that the
98 SRO program helps keep students physically, socially and emotionally
99 safe; that the SRO program builds positive relationships between police
100 agencies and students, regardless of race, religion, color, national
101 origin, sex, age, income or economic status, political affiliation, military
102 status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental or sensory ability; and
103 that the SRO program helps students receive needed services and
104 diverts at-risk students from the criminal justice system.
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106 Section 2. The City shall encourage the District and the other
107 jurisdictions within the District to engage members of the District
108 community in a conversation about the SRO program in 2019. This
109 community engagement should include convening a Task Force of
110 stakeholders to become educated on the current SRO program,
111 compare the SRO program with national best practices, and make
112 recommendations for improvements to the program to the City and the
113 District.
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115 Section 3. The City Manager is directed to reach out to the
116 District Superintendent to collaborate on a community engagement
117 plan. The plan may start with Kirkland as a pilot, or may include all local
118 jurisdictions within the District. The plan should include actions,
119 timelines and potential Task Force membership. The City Manager shall
120 report back on these efforts at one of the Council meetings in January
121 of 2019.
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123 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open
124 meeting this 16th day of October, 2018.
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126 Signed in authentication thereof this 16th day of October, 2018.


Amy Walen, Mayor

Attest:


Kathi Anderson, City Clerk