

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

benefit from a community conversation about how the SRO program should incorporate national best practices to be successful; and

WHEREAS, the District and the City recognize that a program as important as the SRO program must maintain the highest levels of community trust, transparency and accountability, and encourage community input and feedback on how to keep the SRO program among the best in the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The City Council affirms it is the City's intent that the SRO program helps keep students physically, socially and emotionally safe; that the SRO program builds positive relationships between police agencies and students, regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, income or economic status, political affiliation, military status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental or sensory ability; and that the SRO program helps students receive needed services and diverts at-risk students from the criminal justice system.

Section 2. The City shall encourage the District and the other jurisdictions within the District to engage members of the District community in a conversation about the SRO program in 2019. This community engagement should include convening a Task Force of stakeholders to become educated on the current SRO program, compare the SRO program with national best practices, and make recommendations for improvements to the program to the City and the District.

Section 3. The City Manager is directed to reach out to the District Superintendent to collaborate on a community engagement plan. The plan may start with Kirkland as a pilot, or may include all local jurisdictions within the District. The plan should include actions, timelines and potential Task Force membership. The City Manager shall report back on these efforts at one of the Council meetings in January of 2019.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 16th day of October, 2018.

Signed in authentication thereof this 16th day of October, 2018.

  
Amy Walen, Mayor

Attest:

  
Kathi Anderson, City Clerk