## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 5 | **Name:** | Greg Doss |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2016-0007 | **Date:** | February 23, 2016 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Ordinance 2016-0007, an ordinance authorizing the County Executive to execute a contract agreement between King County and the Kent School District for School Resource Officer law enforcement services.

**SUMMARY:**

Proposed Ordinance 2016-0007 authorizes the Executive to sign an agreement for the King County Sheriff’s Office (KCSO) to provide full-time permanent School Resource Officer (SRO) law enforcement services to the Kent School District. This proposed ordinance would approve a contract with the school district modeled on the Issaquah School District SRO contract, which the council reviewed and approved in 2011 as Ordinance 17164.

**BACKGROUND:**

The King County Sheriff’s Office provides law enforcement services to unincorporated King County and, through contracts, to cities, Metro Transit, King County Airport, and school districts. The Sheriff provides contract police services for cities and other governmental entities that allow the contracting agency to specify levels of service. The KCSO provides its contracted law enforcement services through approximately fifty agreements. These contracts include:

* Local police department for twelve suburban cities
* Transit police for Metro and Sound Transit
* King County Airport police and fire services
* Tribal police for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
* Housing Authority policing in two communities
* Fire and arson investigations in fifteen cities
* Marine patrol for eight cities
* Air support for the Coast Guard, Washington Department of Ecology, and King County Department of Natural Resources

In addition to providing local law enforcement services, the KCSO has a number of regional responsibilities, including the operation of the county’s Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), E-911 call and dispatch, and King County Search and Rescue, and air and marine patrol. The Sheriff is also responsible for security in the County’s courthouses.

As one of its functions, the Sheriff’s Office works in partnership with various school districts to provide School Resource Officer services. School Resource Officers (SROs) are Sheriff’s Deputies located on school properties, working either full or part time at the school sites. These officers are assigned to specific schools or school sites and provide law enforcement and security services to the district. The services include “dedicated” patrol services for district grounds, preparation of daily reports, providing specialized resources for students and staff, and other duties mutually agreed upon by both parties. The SROs provide education and training for school staff, students, and parents.

The SROs are encouraged to develop rapport with students and staff, treating the school as a “community” and using community oriented policing techniques to ensure school safety. Under current policy, the school district participates in the selection of the officers, specifies patrol area (generally school sites), hours of patrol, and any other needed services. The SROs assume responsibility for all day-to-day security and law enforcement related concerns identified by district officials and staff.

As part of the 2011 budget, General Fund contributions toward these non-mandated services were eliminated and since then, school districts have paid most of the costs of the SRO under contract with the Sheriff’s Office. Three school districts (Lake Washington, Northshore and Tahoma) compensate the Sheriff for SRO services by paying an hourly rate that covers overtime compensation for Deputies and administrative costs for the Department. This allows for deployments that do not detract from the Sheriff’s responsibility in the unincorporated areas.

The Highline and Issaquah School Districts have each employed dedicated SROs that work at the schools throughout the school year, and the Deputies then return to the Sheriff’s Office for regular deployment in the unincorporated areas during the summer and various school recesses (e.g. Christmas Vacation).

**ANALYSIS:**

This contract has been modeled after the Issaquah School District SRO contract, which the Council reviewed and approved on August 15, 2011 as Ordinance 17164. The contract dedicates one Deputy to the School District anytime that the schools are in session. The contract became effective on January 1, 2016 and extends through July 31, 2016. Thereafter, the contract may be extended for one‐year periods beginning August 1st of each year.

The Proposed Ordinance would approve the agreement (Attachment A) that provides for reimbursable SRO services to the Kent School District. Approval of this ordinance will allow the County to receive $130,000 in revenue for the remainder of the 2015-16 biennium and should generate approximately $135,000 in revenue for future school years.

The agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel, who recommended that staff work with the Sheriff’s Office to develop a template that allows KCSO and the Executive to implement future SRO contracts without Council approval. Legal staff also noted that the underlying contract has a different execution date than its Attachment A and that this oversight should be corrected in any template that might be used for future contracts.

**Potential Budgetary Implications.**

As noted above, approval of Proposed Ordinance 2013-0506 would generate approximately $135,000 of General Fund revenue each year (starting in 2017). It should be noted that this does not fully recover the Sheriff’s costs of employing and equipping the Deputy. The annual salary, benefit and equipment costs to support the position are $161,000, an amount that is $26,000 greater than the revenue coming from the School District. The costs exceed the revenue because the Deputy will only work for the District only when school is in session. The deputy will be available for unincorporated patrol for those periods that he or she is not needed at the school.

Additionally, the General Fund must bear the recruitment, training and the initial equipping costs associated with the hiring of a new Deputy. These costs, and the first year salary and benefits in 2016, will amount to $276,000 in this biennium and will exceed the first year revenue by $145,000. The largest contributor to these costs is the purchase of a vehicle for the Deputy. The School District will pay annual depreciation on the vehicle but the Department must fund the initial outlay.

**INVITED:**

* Chris Barringer, Chief of Staff, King County Sheriff’s Office

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Proposed Ordinance 2013-0506 with attachment A
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Fiscal Note