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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Gregory S. Taylor, Deputy Chief of Police

DATE: March 29, 2019

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the Police Department for the purpose of recruiting and training one School Resource Officer.

Recommendation - Authorize and approve a Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the Police Department. These funds will be designated for School Resource Officer related expenses occurring during the remainder of FY 2019.

Background – The Police Department utilizes School Resource Officers (SRO) at both Concord High School and Merrimack Valley High School. These positions have been highly successful and have served a critical role for both the Department and school districts. The success of SRO's across the country has been well documented and the School Districts as well as the Police Department have all realized the benefit of this partnership for not only the safety of the schools but also the positive interaction between students and the SRO's. The Department currently has Memorandums of Understanding between the two school districts which outlines a cost sharing of the personnel expense for each SRO. Per these agreements, the School District covers 75% of the salary and fringe benefits for the SRO while the Department's operating budget accounts for the remaining 25% of expenses. During the FY2020 budgeting process the Merrimack Valley School District approved funding for an SRO to be assigned to the Merrimack Valley Middle School. The Police Department fully supports the implementation of a School Resource Officer at this school and has submitted a request for this position to be added to the Department's FY 2020 budget.

Discussion – In order to properly and effectively implement a School Resource Officer at Merrimack Valley Middle School for the 2019/2020 school year, the Department will need to initiate an application and selection process, as well as provide training and equipment purchases for the newly selected SRO, prior to the end of the FY 2019 budget year. This resolution requests a Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the Police Department in order to fund expenses necessary to begin the implementation process of the new School Resource Officer.

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Given the nature of a School Resource Office assignment, it is critical that the selected officer be provided specialized training through the National Association of School Resource Officers, and also be provided with job shadowing opportunities with current SRO's. This on-site training needs to occur while students are on campus in order to be most effective. Additionally, orientation at Merrimack Valley Middle School needs to occur while students are still on campus prior to the end of the current school year. School Resource Officers also require different uniforms and equipment than a typical Patrol Officer and this will need to be purchased for the new School Resource Officer.

Most of this training, as well as backfill expenses, and uniform and equipment purchases, will need to occur during the current fiscal year in order to properly institute the new SRO position for the 2019/2020 school year. It is recommended that the City Council approve this Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,000 as requested.