

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

99-003

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

JANUARY 4, 1999

SUBJECT:

SCHOOL RESOURCE
OFFICER PROGRAM

The Des Moines Independent School District has approached the Police Department with a proposal to place officers in the schools. This plan calls for the placement of an officer in each of the District's five high schools and two alternative high schools. The seven officers would be detectives/senior police officers assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division. A sergeant would also be assigned to this detail to act as squad supervisor and be a liaison between the Department and the District. The Police Department recommends placing the officers in the high schools.

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

FISCAL IMPACT -

SUBMITTED BY:

WILLIAM H. MOULDER
CHIEF OF POLICE

The Des Moines School District would provide appropriately appointed private office space for use by the officers in the schools, access to a computer and/or secretarial assistance, office supplies, etc. The Police Department would provide the officers cars, radios, cellular phones and other necessary police equipment. We have estimated this program will cost \$466,387 in FY 98/99. This includes salaries, benefits, recurring costs, and one time purchases of equipment. In FY 99/00, the estimated cost of the program is \$574,103. This includes salaries, benefits and other recurring costs. The Des Moines School District has indicated a willingness to provide funding of approximately 40 percent for these costs.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval of authorization for City Manager to enter into negotiations with the Des Moines Independent School District on a 28E Agreement to implement a

School Resource Officer Program. Such an agreement would be brought back to the Council for final approval.

BACKGROUND -

Over the last several years there has been an increase in violence at schools across the country. There have been newscasts telling of students shooting teachers and other students. Even though we haven't experienced this in Des Moines, we have had vandalism, fights, and other confrontations in the Des Moines Schools. Teachers have also confiscated weapons brought to school by students.

The Des Moines School District has approached the Police Department with a request to once again have police officers assigned to the District's high schools and alternative high schools. These officers would provide a police presence in the schools and would have several benefits. An obvious benefit is the deterrent effect the officer's presence would have on inappropriate student behavior. An officer in the school would be able to provide a more rapid response to any incident occurring on the school grounds. The officer would also be able to provide a role model for students through daily contact and interaction with the students.

There is agreement in concept between the Police Department and the Des Moines School District on this proposal. The Police Department recommends proceeding with this program.