

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

JUN 20 2022

8:38pm

City of South Gate
CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA BILL

For the Regular Meeting of: June 28, 2022

Originating Department: Police

Department Head: Darren Arakawa Interim City Manager: Chris Jeffers
Darren Arakawa Jr

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION RELATING TO THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD DECISION TO REDUCE THE PRESENCE OF SCHOOL POLICE OFFICERS WITHIN SOUTH GATE SCHOOL SITES

PURPOSE: This item was continued from the June 14, 2022 City Council Meeting. To have a discussion regarding the Los Angeles Unified School Board ("LAUSD") decision to reduce school police officers in South Gate schools and potentially receive direction from the City Council on additional steps they would desire relating to this topic.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The City Council will consider:

- a. Discussing the reduction of LAUSD police officers in South Gate schools; and
- b. Providing direction on whether to communicate the concern of the reduction of LAUSD police officers in South Gate schools related to the safety of children and employees at the various school sites.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ANALYSIS: At the February 22, 2022 City Council meeting, Council Member Gil Hurtado and Vice Mayor Maria del Pilar Avalos requested that this item be brought back to a future City Council meeting for discussion by the entire City Council.

Since the request of this item, several incidents have occurred including the May 24, 2022 school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, where 19 children and 2 teachers were murdered. One of the leading discussion points arising from this tragic event is the role that school police have and the impacts of inadequate police personnel by so many school districts around the nation. Hiring additional school police officers will improve the safety of the children in our schools and deter criminal activity in and around our campuses. The Uvalde shooting followed nearly 5 years to the date of the horrific shooting at Parkland High School which left 17 dead.

In response to the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, LAUSD Superintendent Alberto Carvalho announced implementing increased safety measures to protect students from similar occurrences. Those measures included an assessment of access at all

campuses and, potentially, a phone app featuring GPS to aid first responders in the event of such an emergency. However, the new measures didn't include an armed police officer stationed at each school or a person there, every day, who could potentially protect students in the event of a shooter on campus.

It is certainly recognized that the presence of officers on or patrolling campuses would also provide additional services in addition to protecting against possible shooters. These officers can dissuade the congregation of unauthorized individuals from sites, intervene with problems before they escalate into violence or disruptive actions on our campuses.

BACKGROUND: On October 12, 2021, the LAUSD Board voted to reduce their Police Department budget by \$25 million or about one-third of the police force for the District. This action followed a vote in February 2021 to permanently move officers off campuses in the first place.

Prior to that action, LAUSD had provided the following staffing at South Gate schools:

- South Gate High School: (2) police officers assigned to the campus
- South East High School: (2) police officers assigned to the campus
- Legacy High School: (1) police officer assigned to the campus
- South Gate Middle School: (1) police officer assigned to the campus and (1) school safety officer assigned to the campus
- South East Middle School: (1) school safety officer assigned to the campus
- Elementary Schools: (3) police officers on patrol are assigned to service the elementary schools and back up the officers assigned to high school and middle school campuses

Total: (9) police officers and (2) civilian school safety officers

The Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD) also assigned police officers at night and on the weekends to respond to schools in South Gate for calls related to trespassing, vandalism, intrusion alarms, burglaries, and fire alarms.

The current deployment of LAUSD officers in South Gate is two. Meaning that if there was an emergency at any of our schools, two LASPD officers would be available to respond normally to incidents from their patrol areas. LAUSD does not provide night or weekend coverage, and there are no civilian safety officers on any of its twenty-four South Gate campuses.

ATTACHMENT(S): None