

Subject: Resolution No. 34-22A9

**Call for Reallocation of City Funds to Support School
Counselors and for Renegotiation of School Resource
Officer Memorandum of Understanding**

- Commissioners Mark Sanchez, Eric Mar, and Sarah Lipson

WHEREAS: The federal *Cops-In-Schools Grant Program*, the source of the *School Resource Officer (SRO)* first years of funding, requires that the City and County of San Francisco continue to fund the *SRO* program at its current level of twenty-six (26) officers until June 30, 2005 and will taper off over the next few years ending in June, 2007; and

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Police Department's *Car Twenty-Nine Program* provides primary response and perimeter police protection for San Francisco schools and includes twelve (12) police officers; and

WHEREAS: School Resource Officers attempt to provide a form of much needed counseling in secondary schools due to the District's profound deficiency of trained and credentialed school counselors (the District's basic counseling ratio is 600 students to each counselor); and

WHEREAS: As the District struggles with ongoing budget shortages and massive proposed state education budget cuts, few funds are available for hiring new counselors or re-hiring laid off counselors, to offset the enormous student to counselor ratios; and

WHEREAS: In the fiscal year 2003/2004, the City and County of San Francisco will expend \$2 million for the *SRO* program, and \$1 million for the *Car Twenty-Nine Program*; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Supervisors is currently considering proposed changes in the Police Department budget which may result in fewer police assigned to school units.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education supports the re-allocation of City funding to school counselors and other school personnel who can better perform some of the non-police functions needed in SFUSD secondary schools. This may include conflict management, truancy support and counseling; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education is interested in a renegotiated Memorandum of Understanding with the SFPD which includes, but is not limited to, the following conditions:

1. No SRO's will be assigned to SFUSD schools without the participation of stakeholders at the school site under the guidance of the School Site Council.
2. No SFUSD students will be arrested on school grounds or premises except during the commission of a crime. No student may be arrested for criminal activity that occurred on non-school property or for any incidents that are removed in time from the arrest and as is not inconsistent with State and Federal law.
3. The SRO's will concentrate on keeping schools secure from intruders. Their responsibilities will be contained in the school safety plan and the school site plan.
4. Establishment of a SFUSD committee to hear grievances from parents and students related to police in schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That any renegotiated MOU will not take effect until it is approved by the Board of Education; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education urges the SFPD to re-negotiate the MOU in good faith as the continued support of the San Francisco Board of Education will depend on positive changes being made in the SRO Program.

4/22/03

5/27/03