



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-065

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: March 10, 2026
SUBJECT: **Update on the Ongoing Negotiations with Broward County Public Schools Concerning the School Resource Officer Reimbursement Agreement**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide an update regarding ongoing negotiations between the Broward County City Managers' Association (BCCMA), the Broward League of Cities, and Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) concerning the School Resource Officer (SRO) reimbursement agreement for the upcoming school year.

Status of Reimbursement Agreement Negotiations

Representatives from the BCCMA SRO Committee and the Broward League of Cities recently met with BCPS Superintendent Dr. Howard Hepburn and district staff to discuss a revised reimbursement structure for the 2026 - 2027 school year. The BCCMA initially proposed a four (4)-year agreement that would gradually transition to a more equitable reimbursement model, ultimately reaching approximately eighty-three percent (83%) of the average SRO salary and benefits in Broward County - roughly equivalent to the ten (10)-month school year. The proposal also included a provision for the inclusion of an SRO supervisor reimbursement.

BCPS advised that due to uncertainty related to the renewal of the district's millage referendum — expected to appear on the November 2026 ballot — BCPS is not prepared to pursue a multi-year agreement at this time. BCPS instead presented a one (1)-year proposal for the 2026 - 2027 school year that includes:

- Full-Time SRO Reimbursement: \$120,427.75 (a one percent (1%) increase from the current \$119,235.40 rate; a reduction from the prior five percent (5%) annual increase)
- Part-Time SRO Reimbursement: \$108,384.98 (set at ninety percent (90%) of the full-time rate)

Financial Impact to the City of Fort Lauderdale

The City of Fort Lauderdale's estimated cost per SRO in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 is projected at approximately \$186,000 inclusive of salary and benefits, pending the completion of negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police. The projected cost is over \$65,500 higher than the proposed reimbursement of \$120,427.75. As a result, the City would subsidize the SRO program by more than \$590,000 for the nine (9) officers currently anticipated to provide services to the City's public middle and high schools. Similar to prior years, the anticipated reimbursement excludes the City's cost of providing a Police Sergeant dedicated to the SRO Program (approximately \$208,000) and the cost of the vehicles, equipment, and overhead used to support the SRO Program.

This proposal introduces a distinction between full-time and part-time SRO reimbursement rates. Historically, reimbursement has been provided at the same rate regardless of classification, as officers perform the same duties while assigned to their respective schools. BCCMA raised concerns that the proposed structure could reduce reimbursements for cities that utilize a mix of full-time and part-time SROs. Countywide, the proposal would result in an estimated overall decrease of approximately \$266,000 in reimbursements compared to the current year.

The City would receive an estimated increase of \$1,192.35 per SRO provided for the 2026 – 2027 school year under the proposal since the City does not have any part-time SROs.

Other SRO Service Level Changes Anticipated in School Year 2026 - 2027

BCPS is advancing plans to close Seagull Alternative High School in Fort Lauderdale prior to the 2026 - 2027 school year. This closure will eliminate the need for SRO coverage on that campus and reduce the revenue that the City currently receives to support this position. Additionally, for the 2026 - 2027 school year, BCPS is considering eliminating twenty-seven (27) municipal-supported SRO positions and replacing them with BCPS employed SROs. BCPS has indicated that a list of affected schools will be provided by the end of March 2026.

Staff will continue to monitor these discussions and will keep the City Commission informed as information becomes available. For additional information about these negotiations, please contact Yvette Matthews, Assistant City Manager, at yvmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-6103. For additional information regarding the operational impact of proposed changes the SRO Program, please contact William Schultz, Police Chief, at weschultz@flpd.gov or 954-828-5591.

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office

Department Directors