



Molalla Police Department

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Date: April 14, 2021

To: Dan Huff

From: Chief Frank Schoenfeld

RE: **Notes for your meeting with Molalla School Superintendent Tony Mann**

Sir,

With regards to our discussion about your meeting with Superintendent Tony Mann, as you are aware, I did meet with Tony last year (2020) and at the time, SRO programs were being dropped from other school districts inside and outside Clackamas County due to politics surrounding "police defunding" matters that seemed to be popping up everywhere. My intention for this meeting mainly was to get an idea of the Molalla School Districts thought on this trend and whether they were going to follow suit or not.

During this meeting, Superintendent Mann wanted to make it very clear that the district was very happy with the SRO program and was utilizing the resources it generated. We also used this time to discuss anything that either the district or the City would like to change or see added to the program. At this time, neither of us opted to change anything about the current contract and were very excited about how the program was going and what the future held, even with the pandemic. Superintendent Mann pointed out that even though schooling was being conducted via virtual means, he felt the SRO was still needed to be the conduit between the schools and the student their families at home and he intended to use the SRO in this capacity.

We really should have renewed the contract (which expired on June 16th, 2020) at this time, but although my intentions were to put the contract in front of Superintendent for this reason after our meeting, the task inadvertently was side-lined due to pandemic and wildfires. The task then slipped my mind completely.

To bring you up to speed as to what the SRO as been involved in with our schools as of late, here is a checklist you can reference for you meeting with the Superintendent tomorrow:

-SRO Kassab has been working a lot with the Dean of Students on Referrals.

-Currently the SRO is working a sex abuse case which he has brought Safety Compass into as a resource for the school and the victim.

-The SRO has been busy working on school attendance issues where he has involved families and in some student's cases, their probation officers.

-Although most of the the SRO's time is spent at the high school, Officer Kassab has been popping in on the elementary and middle schools. Officer Kassab has been helping the new elementary school principal by answering some questions generated by parents. Officer Kassab is currently working with the middle school regarding a student who has been tripping the school fire alarms, to come up with a way to discipline without charging a crime to an otherwise productive student.

-Recently the SRO has been asked by the high school to spend more time with students during the school lunch periods.

-The SRO has provided class presentations via Virtual means during school closures during the pandemic.

-The SRO has provided a 101 class on Safety Compass and what the program is about and how to access the resource. Officer Kassab is planning a second class with the help of Safety Compass to teach school staff on how to identify signs of abuse and those students who might be potentially involved in sex trafficking.

-The plan is now that Safety Compass has proven to be a valuable resource for the schools and their services have been utilized, Officer Kassab has started a pilot-program with the Clackamas County District Attorney's Office and other outside law enforcement agencies to develop a Risk-Tool for LE and the schools to use when screening a child to identify potential abuse. By starting it out here in Molalla, we hope to get it out to other schools and law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

-The SRO is currently working with our police department, the DA's Office and other outside LE on sex trafficking stings. One of these stings we did at our local motel last year and made an arrest. With the help of Safety Compass, we have been able to provide help to some of these victims who may never have received the help otherwise.

-We believe summer school this year will be flooded with students who are not doing well with the current learning environment surrounding the pandemic. We feel that the SRO will be a valuable resource for our school district when they implement the summer school schedule.

Since the implementation of the SRO assignment, the program has done nothing but grow. Not only has it strengthened the relationship between the police department and our schools, but it has done the same with the community's youth and their families. We have assigned SRO's who make it a point to become directly involved with students, their families, and school staff. This arrangement has made it so together, we can bring in many resources that we have simply not had in the past and use these resources as alternate avenues other than an arrest and introducing the child to the criminal justice system.

Prior to having an SRO, when we received calls at the school, if they were not priority, they would often hold for long periods until we had a free officer that could respond. Usually by then, if the call required any type of investigation, the cases could become difficult because of the laps of time and exposure of witnesses, victims, and suspects, to multiple influences. As it stands now, each incident is dealt with immediately and often early enough that the SRO can get outside resources involved instead of making arrest or contacting juvenile. Needless to say, this has left out patrol officers to spend their time in the community where they belong.

I truly believe that we have one of the best SRO programs in the county and the relationship with our community has benefited greatly.